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A TALE OF TWO NEWCOMERS

DAY 4 OF METRO'S LOOK AT IMMIGRATION: THE CHALLENGES AND THE REWARDS OF COMING TO CANADA PAGE 19

Boys break out of Trailer Park

Use Metro AR to watch Ricky, Julian and Bubbles sell you on their new movie, Don't Legalize It PAGE 26

Professors upset over varying rates of funding

Education equality?
Bow Valley, SAIT closer to original amounts than U of C, MRU

Money has trickled back into Alberta's budget-battered post-secondary institutions at varying rates, fuelling criticism from some advocates that the province is showing favouritism to certain technical programs — and even entire schools.

Metro compared funding levels for each of the province's 26 post-secondary institutions for the upcoming 2014-15 school year with the amount they received in 2012-13. In the 2013-14 budget, every institution was hit with a uniform 7.3 per cent cut in Campus Alberta funding — officials had previously been pledged a two per cent increase.

The province has since returned $82.5 million of the $147 million cut — $50 million was offered in November and another $32.5 million was introduced in the 2014 budget released last month.

But the money hasn't come back in the same manner it was taken out.

Bow Valley College, for example, has actually seen its overall funding hiked by 2.18 per cent for the upcoming year when compared with 2012-13. Other schools appear closer to breaking even — Calgary's SAIT Polytechnic, for example, stands just a littler more than one per cent short on the funding it had in 2012-13.

But major universities and certain colleges are further from clawing back the funds cut from their institutions, let alone accounting for concurrent two per cent increases that never materialized.

The University of Calgary, for example, still stands 3.21 per cent short of the $438 million it was provided in provincial operating funding in 2012-13. Paul Rogers, president of the university faculty association, said with the non-existent increases factored in, his school stands roughly $30 million short of where it was promised to be.

"I'm not sure the government adequately values the education that a comprehensive academic and research institution, like the U of C, (University of Alberta, University of Lethbridge, and Athabasca) gives to a student — what it does in terms of life preparation," Rogers said. "I don't think it needs to be just about training you for a particular job today."

But John Muir, spokesperson for Alberta's advanced education ministry, said the funding kicked back into the sector was done in response to specific proposals from school administrators on where they would like to bump up enrolment. He said certain schools, like Edmonton's Grant MacEwan University, didn't file such a proposal and as a result were left out of the additional funding picture in March.

Muir said certain tech-based student "seats" also cost more for schools to offer.

"We want to ensure that Albertans who want to further their education get the programs they want, so we relied on post-secondary institutions to identify those programs to us that were in high demand and where the labour-market demand was for them," he said. "It's (based) on what the post-secondary institutions have told us, our funding is reflective of that."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

On the web

For a breakdown of past and current Alberta post-secondary funding, head to metronews.ca

FLAMES RULE KINGS

Matt Stajan, centre, celebrates his goal against the Los Angeles Kings with Kenny Agostino, left, and Chris Butler during the game in Calgary on Wednesday. The Flames won 4-3. See the story at metronews.ca

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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‘Sunk costs’ would add to cycletrack price tag

How much? City officials wouldn’t immediately say but previously suggested as much as 17 per cent

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Building Calgary’s cycletrack network on a trial basis will come with “sunk costs” that will inflate the total price tag of the project, should it be made permanent, according to city officials.

Those costs are largely associated with the signal devices that will be required at intersections, transportation engineer Blanka Bracic said this week, although she wouldn’t immediately reveal precise dollar figures.

City staff previously told members of council, however, that the “sunk costs” would amount to about 17 per cent of the total price tag for the proposed cycle track on 1 Street SE.

That came during discussion at a Feb. 19 committee meeting, when the plan was to build that cycle track on a permanent basis, and some councillors questioned whether it could be built temporarily, instead.

“Our biggest cost associated with trying to do this temporarily would be our signal costs because it would (be) a sunk cost — we wouldn’t be able to recover it,” roads maintenance manager Bill Biensch said at the time.

That “sunk cost” would amount to about $610,000, the committee was told.

At the time, the estimated price tag for the 1 Street SE cycle track was $3.67 million and the overall network was to cost roughly $20 million.

But city staff revealed a change in plans this week, and are now proposing building the entire cycletrack network on a temporary basis, as a pilot project, at a cost of $11.5 million.

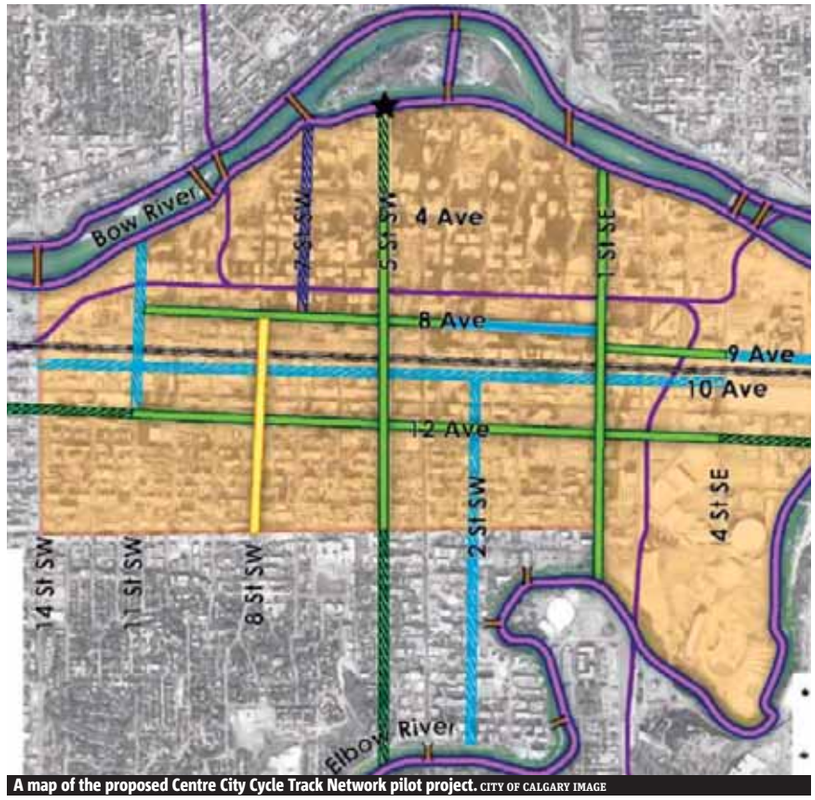
When asked, Bracic wouldn’t say how much it would cost on top of that figure to make the network permanent. She said more specifics would be revealed in a report due up for debate at the city’s transportation and transit committee on April 16.

She did say the added costs are “something that council will have to think about when they are reviewing our report.”

Mayor Naheed Nenshi didn’t offer specific numbers either, but suggested the sunk costs would be minimal and described the city’s new pilot-project approach to the cycle-track network as “prudent.”

“That $11.5 million is not entirely throwaway cost,” Nenshi said.

“In fact, not much of it is throwaway cost at all, is my understanding. It’s part of the investment.”



A map of the proposed Centre City Cycle Track Network pilot project. CITY OF CALGARY IMAGE

Quoted

“That $11.5 million is not entirely throwaway cost. In fact, not much of it is throwaway cost at all.... It’s part of the investment.”

Mayor Naheed Nenshi
on funding the cycletrack network

Teen girl found guilty in U of C student’s murder

She was enraged, armed with a steak knife and bent on revenge — but a judge found Wednesday the teen “architect” of a savage home invasion didn’t act with the murderous intent necessary to support a first-degree conviction.

Instead, the now 18-year-old party crasher was found guilty of second-degree murder in the stabbing death of a University of Calgary student.

“She incited, facilitated and orchestrated the violence that left Brett Wiese dead,” Justice Charlene Anderson told a jam-packed courtroom.

On the night he was killed, the 20-year-old Wiese was celebrating the early days of 2013 with his university-aged pals. Court heard the teen killer, her twin sister and some equally unwelcome friends arrived and were booted from the Brentwood house party.

Following a barrage of text message and phone calls, the girl returned to the house on Brisebois Drive and stormed inside with another group.

In what was described by the judge as a “chaotic” chain-of-events, Wiese was stabbed seven times by two different people. Anderson concluded the girl may have delivered the most damaging blow to his lung and aorta.

On Wednesday, the budding business student’s friends and family turned out to the Calgary Courts Centre to hear the verdict. Many in the group wore pins emblazoned with the victim’s face and frequently rubbed their eyes and sobbed.

Outside of court, the grieving family didn’t say much.

“It’s the judge’s decision,” said Brenda Wiese, Brett’s mom.

Followup court proceedings are scheduled for June in advance of sentencing sometime in the fall. A trial is scheduled in September for a second accused killer, Mitchell Harkes, in the case.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

The Wiese family — mother Brenda, father Jodi and sister Morgan — is pictured outside the Calgary Courts Centre on Wednesday. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Ken Hughes. MLA still quiet on leadership bid as he launches Alberta tour

Tory legislature member Ken Hughes announced Wednesday he is planning a one-day tour of Alberta to discuss leadership issues, but wouldn't confirm he's running to be the next party leader.

Hughes, the MLA for Calgary-West, said he will visit five communities in the province on Friday, but won't be charging taxpayers for his expenses.

"I am (paying for it), or friends are," said Hughes.

He has said an announcement on a possible leadership bid is imminent and dismissed suggestions from reporters that he is playing "cat and mouse" with an important issue.

"The long and the short of it is in order to engage with Albertans I believe it's important to engage with Albertans where Albertans live, and that is my approach," he said.

Hughes has been publicly hinting for weeks that he wants to run in the PC party race to replace former premier Alison Redford.

He has launched a leadership website and has been talking to Albertans for the last two weeks on whether they think he should lead.

No one has announced they will run for the party's leadership, which ends with a vote by members in September.

Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith questioned Hughes's behaviour.

"I think he looks pretty indecisive," said Smith.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLA Ken Hughes METRO FILE

Found at home. Police investigating suspicious death in southeast Calgary

Calgary police are investigating after a man was found dead in a southeast home Monday.

At approximately 2:45 p.m., police were called to a home in the 200 block of Heritage Drive SE.

The victim, identified as 44-year-old John Thomas Pollock, had not been heard from in days, according to a family member who phoned police to check up on him.

Police say Pollock's cause of death is currently undetermined. Initially officers believed circumstances surrounding his death weren't suspicious.

Neighbours did see Pollock at around 8 p.m. Friday. Police are now trying to piece together his whereabouts over the weekend.

METRO

Mohamed Benini has applied to run a new taxi brokerage — Cowboy Taxi — that would see dispatch service outsourced to workers outside of the city, potentially even in other countries. METRO FILE

Council aims to bust barriers for outside taxis

Cabbie concessions. Small-market companies want a piece of the pie

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Taxi oversight officials plan to fire up discussions later this year that aim to make doing business in Calgary a tad more inviting for out-of-city cabbies.

Currently, drivers in Airdrie, Okotoks and the like can only drive customers from their bedroom communities into the city, but cannot take them back out. The same holds true for a Calgary driver dropping a passenger outside of city limits.

But chief livery officer Mark Halat fears bylaw rules are acting as a roadblock to better service for patrons. He said it's only natural that some out-of-city commuters may wish to stick with the same driver for the return trip and hopes to spur discussions on amending city livery rules to allow such prearranged trips to occur.

"Our cities are touching each other in most respects and here we are stymied by jurisdictional boundaries," he said.

Drivers based outside of Calgary would still not be able to troll city streets for fares, Halat cautioned, adding that would foster a "poaching scenario,"

Cutting the red tape

"We want to remove those barriers that are in there right now."

Marc Halat, chief livery officer

that would pull business from city drivers.

Five brokerages currently have cabs working Calgary streets, but elsewhere service appears to be left to a far smaller hodgepodge of outfits.

Airdrie, for example, had 13 brokerages running at last count and it became so confusing for customers that city officials introduced a requirement that each company adopt a specific colour for their vehicle fleet. The intention was to make it easier on passengers wishing to file a complaint or offer a compliment.

But Mohamed Benini, who runs two brokerages in Airdrie, said business isn't great in the city north of Calgary, and most fleets have dwindled to just a handful of active cars.

Eyeing a piece of Calgary's seemingly more lucrative cab pie, Benini recently applied to Halat's department to establish Cowboy Taxi as a registered brokerage in the city. He said his model cuts costs by outsourcing its dispatch to areas outside of the city and claims to have already lined up potential call-takers in Egypt.

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Renewing storied U of C block to cost $210M

MacKimmie block. 'Swiss cheese' tower would go from library to administrative hub

Officials at Calgary's biggest university are hoping to steer a "complete renewal" of a storied on-campus complex at a rough cost of $210 million.

The upper portions of the University of Calgary's MacKimmie Tower were closed to the public last year amid concerns about the building envelope's ability to repel water — a top official compared the building to Swiss cheese.

Much of the larger MacKimmie block remains open for business, but U of C officials hope to secure the necessary funds to redevelop the entire area over the next five to seven years.

"MacKimmie Tower, along with (the) science (building) ... have been identified as our top priorities for repurposing and one for major renovation," said Bart Beaty, the university's vice-president of facilities.

The tower, specifically, would be transformed from a library to an administrative hub — books and computers for students have been moved to a new site on-campus sponsored by the Taylor family.

Beaty said a formal funding request and master plan is still being developed but added the money wouldn't necessarily have to come from the province, noting other avenues such as the federal Building Canada Fund.

Elsewhere, the U of C has already secured $162 million to expand the Schulich School of Engineering with the hope of opening the site's "first elements" in late 2016.

The university also hopes to open the $40-million Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning in late 2015.

The latter phases of student residence expansion are also underway with both an upper-year undergraduate building and a facility for graduates expected to open in summer 2015.

Students head into the University of Calgary's MacKimmie Tower. METRO FILE

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Deny lakeside hotel: Ex-park officials

Parks Canada should reject a plan to build a hotel on the shore of one of the country's most scenic lakes, say three former senior staff.

An open letter released Wednesday says allowing a private developer to build a 66-room hotel and 15 tent cabins at Maligne Lake in Jasper National Park would violate well-established policy and open the door to similar projects that would degrade the wilderness experience.

"The Canadian people, Jasper and other national park ecosystems and Parks Canada have nothing to gain and plenty to lose if this development is approved," says the letter to federal Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq.

The missive is signed by Nikita Lopoukhine, a former director general of Parks Canada, Stephen Woodley, the agency's former chief ecosystem scientist and Kevin Van Tighem, former Banff National Park superintendent.

Daily visitors

2,000

About 2,000 people a day visit Maligne Lake's aquamarine waters in high season.

Maligne Lake is the world's second-largest glacier-fed lake. Its 22-kilometre length is ringed with spectacular peaks and its shores are home to grizzly bears and caribou. A view of the lake's Spirit Island was featured on the old $5 bill.

In addition to the hotel and tent cabins, the company wants to restore a historic boathouse, add a restaurant and lounge and offer interpretive activities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Child mortality. Report takes aim at 'toxic stress'

An Alberta judge says child-welfare workers and foster parents need to have a better understanding of the stress babies in care face to prevent sudden, unexplained deaths.

The recommendation is in a report into the death of a 15-week-old boy who was napping in his crib at an Edmonton foster home in December 2010.

Judge Ferne LeReverend said she couldn't determine a cause of death but did note that studies have found infants facing high levels of toxic stress are at a greater risk of dying suddenly.

The judge recommends that a doctor trained in toxic stress be assigned to every infant taken into provincial care. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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'One of a kind' cowboy honoured

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Victim's brother thanks community for outpouring of support

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Ben Steiger is seen in this photo provided by his family. He was killed in a rodeo training incident on the weekend. METRO FILE

Before he died, Ben Steiger privately recorded a song, one his loved ones found this week while going through his keepsakes.

"It's called 'One of a Kind,' just like Ben was," remarked older brother Chalmer Steiger on Wednesday.

Ben's passion for strumming tunes was matched only by his love of competing in rodeos. He'd come up through the proper schools, according to Chalmer, learning first to mutton bust, then riding steers and junior bulls.

Over the weekend, Steiger was partaking in three days of saddle bronc training when he was bucked off a horse and later kicked. According to witnesses, the 16-year-old Turner Valley boy attempted to flee the infield but then collapsed in front of dozens of horrified onlookers. Ben's father Wayne Steiger, a registered veterinarian, raced to his son's aid and performed CPR on the unconscious boy until medics arrived.

Ben was pronounced dead before he could be taken to hospital. The Steiger family has now enlisted an area musician to play "One of a Kind" at Ben's funeral, scheduled for next Tuesday at Calgary's First Alliance Church.

On Wednesday, family and friends of his at Oilfields High School donned their finest western wear in honour of their fallen cowboy.

"Hopefully it's something that continues on every year," Chalmer said. "We really appreciate the support in this terrible time.... He touched a lot of people."

Chalmer said the incident was a "fluke." He said while Ben's mother had expressed concerns about his rodeo thrill-seeking ways, that would never be enough to deter his spirited little brother.

"Ben was about 100 lbs. lighter than me and his other brother Chase, but he'd always be right in there, mixing it up," Chalmer said. "He was one of those kids — he was scared of nothing."

Rest in Peace

3,600

The Rest In Peace Ben Steiger Facebook page had more than 3,600 subscribers as of Wednesday evening.

Senior exec leaves AHS, gets coaching contract: Wildrose

Wildrose Party Leader Danielle Smith METRO FILE

Alberta health officials are once again under fire for spending on outside consultants after the opposition Wildrose revealed a case where a senior Alberta Health Service executive landed a contract after leaving the province's health body.

According to documents the Wildrose Party acquired under the province's Freedom of Information legislation, the company of Pam Whitnack, former executive vice-president for rural, public and community health when AHS was formed, was awarded a $252,000 sole-sourced coaching and mentoring contract the day after Whitnack left AHS. Whitnack retired with a $853,000 pension, according to the Wildrose. "Obviously, the optics of this are atrocious," Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith said. "Here we have AHS handing out hundreds of thousands of dollars in a sole-sourced contract to an individual who left the organization the day before. It just goes to the culture of bureaucratic waste that has afflicted our health-care system and resulted in Albertans waiting longer and longer for the care and treatment they need."

On Wednesday, the Wildrose Party revealed a host of documents showing Alberta Health Services spent $250 million on outside consultants between April 2012 and September 2013. METRO

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West Hillhurst president John Wildenborg says two sections of his community headquarters are in desperate need of repair. Volunteer efforts to raise the money seem to have petered out. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Fixing drip not a drop in the bucket

Grant dilemma. West Hillhurst community centre badly in need of pricey repairs

BRYAN WEISMILLER
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One of Calgary's aging inner-city community associations is looking up at a leaky roof and staring down a daunting repair tab.

West Hillhurst president John Wildenborg says his community centre is trapped in an "impossible situation" in which it can't pony up $369,000 to front the fix-up project under a city reimbursement program.

"We need to have that roof done this year," he said. "If we let it go another season we start running into a lot of structural problems."

The community didn't collect much beyond the $100,000 gifted by a lone "white knight" before time ran out on its fundraising campaign this month. While open to late donations, community officials are now planning to proceed with bridge financing.

Other badly needed projects, such as an estimated $1-million repair to the arena's concrete pad, are still hanging in the balance.

"It's a difficult situation," said Wildenborg. "Because we don't have assets it's difficult to get loans."

It's not a one-off predicament, according to the Federation of Calgary Communities.

Federation head Leslie Evans called the grant program being used by West Hillhurst and other communities with infrastructure needs a "double-edged sword."

"We can see the value in it," said Evans, whose organization oversees roughly 150 communities. "But at the same time it's definitely causing some of our community associations difficulty in meeting the requirements to do the work before they see the money back."

Cathy Taylor, of the city's community and neighbourhood services unit, defended the reimbursement program. Taylor suggested there needs to be oversight and clear targets when volunteer-run organizations dip into the public purse.

"Because these are taxpayers' dollars, we have to be very, very careful," she said in an interview.

City funding

Under the city's Capital Conservation Grant, community organizations can apply to get funding for up to 75 per cent of life-cycle repairs (up to $300,000), with the community organization paying the other chunk.

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Mayor Naheed Nenshi offered advice to Calgarians Tuesday on flood preparedness. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Calgarians should prepare for flooding just in case: Nenshi

Repeat of 2013?
'We can't control nature, but we can control our response to it,' mayor says

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Calgary almost certainly won't flood again this year but, just in case, residents should take some basic steps now and monitor conditions closely in the coming months, Mayor Naheed Nenshi said Wednesday.

"Remember that what we experienced last year was a 1-in-100 flood," Nenshi told reporters. "That means there's a one per cent per year chance of it happening. That said, it's important for us to be ready."

The mayor advised Calgarians to immediately do simple things like move valuable and irreplaceable items out of their basements, and to keep an eye on weather and river conditions, particularly between May 15 and July 15, when the likelihood of flooding is at its highest.

Calgary Emergency Management Agency director Bruce Burrell also outlined steps homeowners can take to protect their properties, including moving electrical boxes out of basements, installing backflow valves, and ensuring sump pumps have backup power in case electricity is shut off during a high-water event.

Burrell said other mitigation such as sandbags "may or may not be effective," depending on the speed and force of rising waters.

"If water is just gradually coming up, of course sandbags work very effectively," he said. "On flowing water, sandbags don't work as effectively."

To protect critical infrastructure on a moment's notice, the city has purchased 217 flood tubes that are three feet in diameter each, said Rick Valdarchi of water services.

The devices, which can be used to quickly build temporary dams, augment the supply of roughly 70 one-foot tubes it had last year, Valdarchi said.

Winter blast

Electrical pole fires leave many without power

Electrical pole fires left hundreds without power around Calgary Wednesday morning as a burst of winter returned. Calgary firefighters responded to a number of calls in the Coach Hill area around 5:30 a.m., as flames erupted due to a phenomenon known as "tracking," where dirt builds up in electrical insulators and when precipitation occurs it causes overheating and fires. METRO

Fundraising. Alberta Party tops first-quarter donation target

While not the hundreds of thousands raked in by the governing PCs or the opposition Wildrose, the Alberta Party has exceeded their donation target for the first quarter of 2014.

According to an Alberta Party statement, they raised roughly $27,000 in Q1 — which was 141 per cent of their target and four times what was raised in Q1 of 2013.

"I'm pleased with the progress we made this quarter," said Alberta Party leader Greg Clark, in a prepared statement.

"Fundraising is an obvious measure of support and it's gratifying to see so many individual Albertans putting their trust in the Alberta Party."

A detailed disclosure report will be filed with Elections Alberta by April 15 and is expected to be publicly available shortly after. METRO

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Man arrested after stabbing rampage at Toronto office

Attempted murder charges. Police say suspect had just been fired when he attacked, leaving four injured

Toronto police stand outside an office building in the city's north end following a multiple stabbing. Police say a suspect is in custody following the stabbing, which left at least four people injured. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An employee of a human resources company stabbed his superiors while being fired at a Toronto office building, police said Wednesday.

Police said four people were injured, including one woman who has life-threatening injuries.

Chuang Li, 47, faces three counts of attempted murder and four counts of aggravated assault with a knife.

Dan Darnbrough, a Toronto police detective, said employees held the man before police arrived. A 32-year-old woman and three men between the ages of 35 and 45 were injured, he said. Three remain hospitalized.

Ceridian, a global payroll and human resources company based in Bloomington, Minnesota, said four of its employees were attacked by a "former employee." Asked if the man attacked after being fired, Ceridian released a statement that said "due to employee confidentiality guidelines, we are unable to share any additional information."

Quoted

"He was being fired and I guess then he proceeded to get involved in stabbing some of his bosses and some other employees."

Toronto police Det. Daniel Darnbrough

Police earlier said they were called at about 9:30 a.m. local time with reports that "a man with scissors" had entered the business and began stabbing people.

Television footage showed police putting a handcuffed man, wearing a bloodied shirt, into a police car. The man turned his head while in the backseat and said hello to a TV camera pointed at him.

The man is due in court on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pakistan

Attempted murder case against baby prompts outcry

A nine-month-old Pakistani boy has been swept up in an attempted murder investigation that highlights the country's dysfunctional criminal justice system, where even children are not immune from questionable legal decisions.

The toddler was brought to court last Friday as part of an investigation relating to an incident where residents in his neighbourhood clashed with police. He was granted bail by a judge.

The Jan. 31 altercation sparked police to open an attempted murder investigation into 30 people, including the father of the toddler and his unnamed son, said police officer Atif Zulfiqar, who is in charge of the area. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wounded by trains

Honduran migrants ask Mexico to allow free passage

About a dozen Honduran migrants who lost legs and arms after falling from trains during northbound journeys across Mexico asked the country's Senate on Tuesday to stop the government's persecution of Central Americans, protect them from criminal gangs and contribute money to shelters for their care.

The migrants say that drug-gang members and other criminals frequently beat, stab or push them from moving trains during their journeys through Mexico to the United States.

The migrants expressed hope that Mexico would agree to allow them transit visas or free passage without documents to cross the country on their way to the U.S. border. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Graphic photo causes stir at Pistorius trial

Oscar Pistorius leaves the high court in Pretoria, South Africa, Wednesday.
THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prosecutor takes aggressive line. Accused Olympian refuses to look at image of slain girlfriend's bloodied head

Oscar Pistorius refused to look at a photo of his dead girlfriend's bloody head wounds while testifying at his murder trial Wednesday as the prosecutor urged the star athlete to "take responsibility" for killing her.

"It's time that you look at it," chief prosecutor Gerrie Nel said, setting the stage for a rigorous first day of cross-examination of Pistorius, the double-amputee Olympian charged with premeditated murder for shooting Reeva Steenkamp three times through a toilet door at his home.

"I remember," Pistorius said of Steenkamp's bloodied head, becoming distraught and then crying as he turned away from the gruesome image of the injuries he inflicted that were displayed next to him in a packed courtroom in South Africa's capital.

The showing of the photograph on TV screens in the courtroom caused gasps among spectators, who included Steenkamp's mother, June.

"I will not look at a picture where I'm tormented by what I saw and felt that night," Pistorius said. "As I picked Reeva up, my fingers touched her head. I remember. I don't have to look at a picture, I was there."

Pistorius, 27, says he shot Steenkamp in the pre-dawn hours on Valentine's Day — in the head, arm and hip — by mistake, thinking she was a dangerous intruder behind the door in his bathroom about to come out and attack him. Prosecutors charge he killed the 29-year-old intentionally. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Cuban Twitter.' Havana probes leak of half-million cellphone numbers

Cuba's government said Wednesday it has launched a probe into how hundreds of thousands of customer cellphone numbers fell into the hands of a U.S. government program that used them to secretly set up a mobile-based, Twitter-like social network on the island.

An Associated Press investigation revealed last week that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) program used the data to build a subscriber base for the platform, dubbed ZunZuneo, with the idea that it could be used to stir unrest.

Cuba considers such USAID programs to be subversive attempts to topple its Communist-run government. Officials told reporters that state telecom Etecsa had not provided the data to any international operator or entity, and that the information was obtained illegally.

Washington officials have defended the ZunZuneo program as consistent with U.S. law and described it as "discreet," rather than covert or classified. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Need more troops in CAR: U.S. Envoy

Central African Republic. UN votes Thursday on expanding its role; U.S. ambassador calls for more troop support

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations on Wednesday urged more support for existing African and French troops in Central African Republic on the eve of a UN vote to create a peacekeeping mission.

Ambassador Samantha Power, making her second visit to the country since unprecedented sectarian violence erupted in December, said the African peacekeeping mission is now working to fill the gap left by neighbouring Chad. Last week the Chadian government began withdrawing its 850 troops following allegations some had indiscriminately killed dozens of unarmed civilians.

Power, who met Wednesday with top officials from the African peacekeeping group, said that Cameroonian and French forces were being moved into the areas previously guarded by the Chadians.

"There's no question that we need to redouble our efforts — we're making them every day anyway," she told reporters.

"But this adds even more urgency to the task of getting more troops and more police deployed rapidly in order to fill those gaps which really do exist." The UN Security Council is due to vote Thursday on expanding the nearly 5,000-strong African mission in Central African Republic into a UN peacekeeping operation for the country of 4.6 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Muslims waiting

"What I think the UN is trying to do is to make sure we go on a case-by-case basis."

U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power
At least 19,000 Muslims are still trapped and unable to flee. Part of the challenge is finding out whether people want to leave.

Putin turns up the heat

Masked pro-Russian activists guard barricades at the regional administration building in Donetsk, Ukraine, Wednesday. Russian President Vladimir Putin turned up the heat on Ukraine on Wednesday by threatening to demand advance payment for gas supplies, a move designed to exert economic pressure as Ukraine confronts possible bankruptcy and a mutiny by pro-Russian separatists. EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia. World security co-operation 'localized' a threat at Sochi: Official

Russia's security service chief says intelligence agencies in Russia and other countries helped to prevent terrorist attacks on the Winter Games in Sochi.

FSB chief Alexander Bortnikov said in comments carried by Russian news agencies on Wednesday that intelligence agencies from the United States, Austria, France, Germany and Georgia had helped Russia to target individuals who were plotting terrorist attacks on the 2014 Winter Games.

The revelation is particularly striking because Russia has not had diplomatic ties with Georgia since 2008. The Black Sea resort of Sochi hosted the Winter Games in February, which ran without any security incidents. Bortnikov gave few details but said co-operation with the foreign intelligence agencies "localized that threat."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Wi-Fi? Why not! Vancouverites may soon enjoy free wireless web

B.C. City's park board to prioritize Internet access in spaces with high residential density, tourist appeal

EMILY JACKSON
Metro in Vancouver

Think these beachgoers at a packed Vancouver beach in 2013 would have been interested in free Wi-Fi? Vancouver's park board will vote on a motion next week to determine potential locations for free public Wi-Fi. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Wouldn't it be nice to use free Wi-Fi instead of pricey cellular data plans when posting pics on Instagram of the sun setting over the beach?

Vancouver's park board figures residents and tourists would appreciate the option, and it will vote on a motion next week asking staff to determine potential locations for free public Wi-Fi, the cost of such a program and a timeline for implementing the service, Commissioner Trevor Loke announced Wednesday.

The city has been considering free Wi-Fi since at least 2005 — it's already in place at city hall and at the public library — and council passed a digital strategy last year promising to make public Internet access a reality by 2016.

But Loke wants to get the ball rolling on the plan to ensure the park board has a say in what places get Wi-Fi. Suggestions so far have focused on busy downtown shopping strips.

"We want to make sure that park spaces are a priority within the digital strategy," Loke said.

The park board will prioritize Internet access in spaces with high residential density and appeal for tourists.

It's not clear how much the infrastructure would cost, but the city is considering partnerships with local providers. The entire digital strategy was budgeted at $30 million between 2013 and 2017.

Quebec City, Denver, Co., and Auckland, New Zealand, already provide free public Wi-Fi.

Bahamas. Former Winnipeg resident shot dead by masked home invaders

A British citizen visiting the Bahamas was killed in a home invasion in an upscale neighbourhood of Grand Bahama, authorities said Wednesday.

Edgar George Dart, a 56-year-old who lived in Winnipeg, was shot and killed when three masked intruders burst into his family's home in the island's Emerald Bay neighbourhood, said Assistant Commissioner Emrick Seymour of the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

Dart was visiting his mother's home when he apparently struggled with one of the assailants as they tied up family members with duct tape during the Tuesday morning attack, Seymour said.

The attackers had apparently cut phone service to the house before the attack. They fled in a gardener's van.

No suspects are in custody and Seymour appealed to the public for help. It was the sixth homicide of the year on Grand Bahama. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York

Paralyzed worker sues rail company for $100 million

A railroad mechanic paralyzed in a deadly New York derailment says he forgives the man driving the train.

Samuel Rivera praised Metro-North Railroad on Wednesday as he announced a $100-million lawsuit against it.

Rivera spoke from a rehabilitation centre north of New York City. He has no movement of his legs and very little in his arms.

Four people were killed and more than 70 injured in the Dec. 1 derailment in the Bronx. Rivera is calling for legislation mandating seat belts on public transportation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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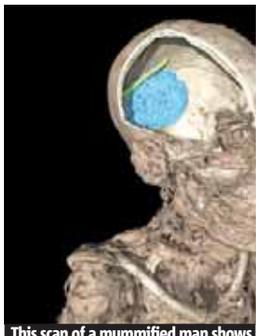
Scans show details of mummy's body

British Museum.
Scientists 'thrilled' to discover embalming tools in mummy's skull


This scan of a mummified man shows the remains of the brain and a tool.
THE BRITISH MUSEUM/THE AMERICAN PRESS

Our fascination with mummies never gets old. The British Museum is using the latest technology to unwrap their ancient mysteries.

Scientists at the museum have used CT scans and sophisticated imaging software to go beneath the bandages, revealing skin, bones, preserved internal organs — and in one case a brain-scooping rod left inside a skull by embalmers.

The findings go on display next month in an exhibition that sets eight of the museum's mummies with detailed images of their insides and 3D printed replicas of some items buried with them.

Director Neil MacGregor said 6.8 million people visited the London institution last year, "and every one asked one of my colleagues, 'Where are the mummies?'"

The museum has been X-raying its mummies since the 1960s, but modern CT scanners give a vastly sharper image.

Just like live patients, the mummies chosen for the exhibition were scanned at London hospitals — though they were wheeled in after hours. The museum's scientists were thrilled to discover a spatula-like probe still inside one man's skull, along with a blob of brain.

"The tool at the back of the skull was quite a revelation, because embalmers' tools are something that we don't know much about," said John Taylor, museum mummy expert.

Another mummy, a woman who lived in Sudan around 700 A.D., was a Christian with a tattoo of the Archangel Michael's name on her inner thigh.

The star of the show is Tamut, a temple singer from a family of high-ranking priests. She died around 900 B.C.

Her brightly decorated casket has never been opened, but the scans have revealed her well-preserved body, her face and short-cropped hair.

"Come back in another five years and you will hear Tamut sing," MacGregor said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plunket's princely play date

Britain's Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, holds Prince George, left, during a visit to Plunket nurse and parents group on Wednesday at Government House in Wellington, New Zealand. Plunket is a not-for-profit organization providing care for children and families. MARTY MELVILLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Airport scare

Man found with loaded handgun

A Virginia man was arrested at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport after a loaded handgun was found in his bag at a security checkpoint.

Maryland Transportation Authority Police say 36-year-old Ryan Watson of Stafford, Va., was charged.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Infertility

Italian court lifts ban on donations

Italy's constitutional court has struck down a ban on egg or sperm donation for infertile couples.

Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin, saying the law had effectively been "gutted," called on Parliament to revise legislation.

The conservative law reflects the influence on lawmakers by the Vatican, whose teaching forbids artificial procreation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Coming to Canada is a challenge for anybody. Sometimes it goes well, and sometimes it doesn't. We talk to two people at different ends of the scale.

See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to see a video clip featuring more immigrants who've made Canada home.

Priscilla Bunke, originally from Nigeria, lived in Germany for 11 years before moving to Canada. She's now a successful specialist in securities and derivatives regulatory law, as well as the energy and oil industries. CONTRIBUTED

Jamie Martinez moved to Canada from Colombia in January 2008. He spent years working as a labourer in Canada and has been forced to tap into the welfare system. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

The Story of Us
Immigration in Canada

MIKE DONACHIE
Metro in London, Ont.

Priscilla Bunke has come a long way, in more ways than one.

Her route to Canada was via Germany, where she spent 11 years. She then worked through a process of re-qualifying as a lawyer in Alberta, completing that in May 2012.

It's been 18 years since Bunke left her native Nigeria, and she's now a successful specialist in securities and derivatives regulatory law, as well as the energy and oil industries, with Dentons law firm in Calgary.

If that sounds impressive, it's because it is.

"It wasn't easy," she said. "But many people come here and succeed."

She's done a lot of work in the last 11 years, including 12 exams just to re-qualify in Canada.

"I wouldn't lie," said Bunke, 45, who has a 14-year-old son and an 11-year-old daughter. "Life is very good now. I'm very happy now. But it was tough."

She said working in Germany — where she completed a master's degree and worked as a corporate counsel for an insurance company — was tougher, mainly due to the language barrier.

In Canada, Bunke was able to find work quickly, spending three years as a legal researcher while she re-qualified.

But adjusting to Canada after she arrived in July 2007 brought its own challenges.

There's a greater emphasis on networking, she explained, and the lessons come thick and fast.

"What I've realized here is that if you are open to learning, then people are really, really kind and ready to help," Bunke said, adding that she values the Canadian mentors who offered their time.

"I've been very fortunate and blessed to meet people who have been amazing."

It's been a tough few years for Jamie Martinez.

Now 54, he came to Canada from Colombia in January 2008.

"My original background is mechanical engineering," Martinez said. "But I worked for Goodyear in Colombia for 17 years in human resources. I wanted to do something the same when I came to Canada, but I couldn't."

First, there was a language barrier.

Two ESL courses helped with that, but even applying for jobs was a problem, so there followed lessons in creating a resumé and looking for work.

Martinez spent years being offered only labourer jobs, and he's also been forced to tap into the welfare system. But he stayed determined to work in administration, in a similar job to the one he had in Colombia.

It took three years before he landed an office job, and he says his experience isn't rare — even the large numbers of university-educated immigrants face a steep climb, he said.

Martinez, who is in the country on a work visa and still trying, after six years, to get permanent resident status, says he's committed to Canada.

Nowadays, he works as executive director of the Latino Canadian Community Corporation in London, Ont., and is a leading light in the London Multicultural Club.

"Canada is amazing," he said.

"We love Canada. It's so family-oriented."

But he called on employers to be more open to newcomers, whose status is easily signalled with a SIN card number that starts with "9."

"We don't get real help to get a job," he said about immigrants.

"We need more help to overcome all the problems we have."

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO IN LONDON, ONT.

Follow Mike Donachie on Twitter @Mike_Donachie

Quoted

"We need more help to overcome all the problems we have."

Jamie Martinez

A truly Canadian quiz

The Canadian citizenship test was altered in 2010 to make it a little more difficult.

Since then, applicants have been required to answer 15 of 20 questions correctly, whereas previously they passed with 12 out of 20 correct responses — as long as they gave the right answer to certain mandatory questions.

The problem was those mandatory questions were always the same, making the test easy to beat by paying for the answers beforehand. (And, it's been proven that really was happening).

About 96 per cent of those taking the test before 2010 passed. The new formula has lowered the pass rate to 80 per cent or so.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) sends all applicants a study guide as soon as the paperwork is received.

"The best way to succeed at the citizenship test is to study Discover Canada," said a CIC official. "We encourage people to begin studying as soon as they apply for citizenship and receive their study guide."

As well, an online language test must be taken and passed before anything else happens.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO IN LONDON, ONT.

On the web

Can you pass? Give our practice citizenship test a try at metronews.ca

Getting their start elsewhere

Plenty of immigrants come to Canada and wind up being household names. You may be surprised at how many well-known Canucks didn't actually get a start in the True North strong and free. Here's a look:

Steve Nash
GETTY IMAGES

Steve Nash is considered the best NBA player ever to spend most of his life in Canada. Currently a member of the Los Angeles Lakers, he was named the NBA's most valuable player in both 2006 and 2007. He grew up in Victoria, B.C. He was born in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Ernie Coombs
GETTY IMAGES

Ernie Coombs was a children's entertainer who starred in the Canadian television series, Mr. Dressup. He became a Canadian citizen in 1994. He and his family lived in Pickering, Ont. He was born in Lewiston, Maine.

Brendan Fraser
GETTY IMAGES

Brendan Fraser, son of Canadian parents, is a movie and stage actor who portrayed Rick O'Connell in the three-part Mummy series. He is also known for other comedic and fantasy-film leading roles in major Hollywood movies. He was born in Indianapolis, Ind.

METRO

THE STORY OF US: IMMIGRATION IN CANADA, TOLD IN FIVE PARTS

Day 1 1
Change and effect

Day 2 2
What Canada wants vs. what it gets

Day 3 3
Where we come from, where we go

Day 4 4
Happy times, hard times

Day 5 5
The future and beyond

Online
Live the stories of three immigrants in our five-part video series at metronews.ca

‘Heartbleed’ bug causes major heartburn for CRA

Canada Revenue Agency. If you haven’t filed your taxes, you won’t be able to until at least the weekend due to computer bug

With tax-return season in full swing, the Canada Revenue Agency suddenly locked down its online filing services on Wednesday, fearful of a new vulnerability in software used by much of the world to safeguard secure websites on the Internet.

All of the federal government’s online systems were under review after word of the so-called “Heartbleed” computer bug prompted the tax agency to pull the plug on its electronic services as a precaution.

“As a preventative measure, the CRA has temporarily shut down public access to our online services to safeguard the integrity of the information we hold,” the agency said in a statement.

The shutdown came after the Canadian Cyber Incident Response Centre (CCIRC) issued a warning to system administrators about the coding flaw. It recommended that system operators unable to plug in an immediate fix get off the grid.

Other federal systems were also being assessed for their vulnerability to the threat, said Antoine Ouellon, a spokesperson for Shared Services Canada, the federal agency that oversees the government’s IT infrastructure. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Canada Revenue Agency headquarters in Ottawa is shown on Friday. The ‘Heartbleed’ bug forced the tax agency on Wednesday to suspend its online filing services. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heart-stopping oversight

Bug went undetected for two years

A confounding computer bug called “Heartbleed” is causing major security headaches across the Internet as websites scramble to fix the problem and web surfers wonder whether they should change their passwords to prevent theft of their email accounts, credit card numbers and other sensitive information.

Security researchers who uncovered the threat are particularly worried about the lapse because it went undetected for more than two years.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serving up McJobs

McD’s Canada supersizes hiring of young people

McDonald’s Canada and its franchisees are set to hire more than 6,000 young people at a one-day event on Thursday.

McDonald’s says it’s aiming to employ the largest number of young people it has ever attempted to hire in one day in Canada.

The fast food chain notes that youth unemployment rates are almost double the national average.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

More focus on the self

Twitter redesigns for the Selfie Age

As Twitter looks to broaden its appeal beyond its 241 million users, the company is introducing a redesign of profile pages that includes bigger photos, more user controls and a distinct resemblance to Facebook.

As part of changes coming in the next few weeks, users who access Twitter via the Web will notice larger photos on their profile pages.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Half a million in Canada

Toyota recalls 6.39M vehicles

Toyota Motor Corp. is recalling 6.39 million vehicles globally, including more than half a million in Canada, for a variety of problems spanning nearly 30 models in Japan, North America, Europe and other places.

Toyota Canada issued two separate recall notices affecting a total of 513,401 vehicles on Wednesday as part of the global initiative.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Around the world in a solar plane

Visitors walk under the new experimental aircraft Solar Impulse 2 at an event in Payerne, Switzerland, on Wednesday. LAURENT GILLIERON/KEYSTONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Swiss team planning to complete the first round-the-world solar flight next year unveiled a new version of their unique aircraft Wednesday, which they say could remain in the air indefinitely.

Pilots Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg said the Solar Impulse 2 improves upon the single-seater prototype that first took flight five years ago, and which has since demonstrated that a solar-powered plane can fly through the night, between two continents and across the United States.

The updated plane presented to the world at the Payerne Air Force Base in Switzerland has better batteries for storing energy soaked up from the sun by the 7,200 solar cells that cover its massive wings.

At 236 feet, its wingspan is eight metres longer than the first prototype — longer even than the wings of a Boeing 747 jumbo jet — but still only weights 2.54 tons, about as much as a large car.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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GIVE UP YOUR SUMMER JOB SEARCH

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Now that summer break has arrived for you university and college students, it's time to decide what your dream job is, because you'll be thinking about it a lot while you rot in some summer-job cesspool.

That's probably hard to hear after eight difficult months of alcoholism and plagiarism, but it's the truth, as cold and hard as the nickels you'll be stealing from the tip jar.

One of the only guaranteed jobs out there this time of year is writing tips for people looking for summer jobs (ka-ching!), and in my experience most articles like this one are far too optimistic, even naive.

They're all about networking and gumption and stick-to-it-iveness (formerly known as perseverance). Just put yourself out there and good things will happen, the advice goes. Lies, I say.

It harkens back to my parents' youth in New Brunswick, where job seekers simply grabbed the "Help Wanted" sign in the window and handed it to the boss, who was so impressed by an N.B.er with basic literacy skills and opposable thumbs that the new hires were well on their way to becoming Senior Vice-President of "Help Wanted" Sign Distribution. Or so I've been told.

But when I was playing this game 15 years ago, it was pretty painful. Mostly it involved looking at recipe cards tacked to a corkboard at a youth employment centre and praying that "pay negotiable" meant either six figures or seven figures.

I'm ignorant of today's job market — no doubt it involves e-recipe cards robo-tacked to a World Wide Corkboard — but since the media has dubbed today's youth demographic "generation screwed" I'm going to assume things aren't super.

From what I've heard, the modern job seeker requires three call-back interviews, including one in front of a board of directors, just to apprentice for the guy who fetches the coffee, and even then it's an unpaid internship until you're 34.

It's pretty much hopeless. But I'm legally obligated to provide a few tips, so:

- It's not what you do, it's who you do.
- Crack the so-called hidden job market by surfing to the Canada Job Bank and typing up up down down left right left right B A.
- BuzzFeed's Which Career Should You REALLY Have? is pretty much can't-miss.

But the biggest advice I would give anyone looking for a summer job is: Avoid it if you can.

I'm not even kidding. If you can avoid it at all — either because you're spoiled or you're cheap — then do it. Working in between school years makes the whole summer seem like life's longest Sunday: melancholy and muted even when it's nice out.

I know that supposedly makes me irresponsible then and now, but, trust me, you will not look back and say, "I wish I'd joined the workforce sooner."

Instead, inform your friends that you're looking to travel or party or vegetate and that they should join you. "Help wanted," in other words.

ZOOM

It's rather en-lightning

COURTESY CRAIG ECCLES/SOLENT NEWS & PHOTO

Electrical storms get oohs and ahhs

A thrill-seeking storm chaser captured the precise moment these giant lightning bolts lit up dark skies in a series of incredible storms.

Craig Eccles, a photographer from Perth, Western Australia, travels up to 500 kilometres in anticipation of a powerful storm – all for the sake of capturing that ferocious majesty on camera.

METRO

Photog's viewpoint

"I have seen lightning bolts stretch for miles across the sky. For me, it's not all about the lightning bolt — sometimes it's about being in pitch black and in a split second, it appears as day."

Craig Eccles, photographer from Perth, Western Australia

How and when?

- Electrical potential builds up inside clouds, between water droplets with either a positive and negative charge. This potential is discharged in the form of lightning
- The frequency of flashes worldwide is about 50 times per second (that's 4.3 million times a day).

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In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on pages 10 and 18 News, page 24 in Scene, page 26 in Life, and page 38 in Sports.

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MetroTube

One cat not a fan

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

Much of the feisty behaviour we find so amusing about cats can be attributed to their displeasure for treading on their turf or ignoring their critically important needs.

"You think you can ignore my hunger at 5 a.m.? My raking at this blanket begs to differ."

This cat goes from fuzzy guitar groupie to feisty heckler based on a similar complaint. "Listen, Duane Allman. I'm in charge of licks around here."

Luckily, lame puns and their accompanying groans are for humans only. Or I'd be in a lot of trouble with my cat today.

FLICKR

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Mamma Mia! Celebrated musical set to get audience feet tapping

Dancing queens.
'Funny and silly' musical comes to the Jubilee Auditorium this month

BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

When Mamma Mia! first took London's West End by storm in 1999, ABBA hadn't been a band for nearly 20 years.

The musical, based on the legendary Swedish pop group's catchy '70s and '80s hits, was an immediate success. Fifteen years later, the show's been produced more than 40 times around the world in 14 different languages.

The current North American touring production has been on the road since late last year and makes a stop at the Jubilee Auditorium next week.

The continuing appeal of Mamma Mia! — which follows a young bride-to-be as she and her independent-minded mother try to figure out who her real father is before the wedding — can be attributed not only to Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson's enduring melodies, but also the story's mix of sensitivity and humour, according to dance captain Carly Wielstein.

"It's a rock concert with a story," she explains.

"It's a touching story. It moves people. It's funny and silly. But it talks about timeless friendships, long-lasting love and there are strong female leads."

As dance captain and "swing" for the production, Wielstein is responsible for teaching show choreography to understudies and new ensemble members, as well as making adjustments or helping re-stage the show, depending on the capacity of the venue. She also steps in when certain female ensemble members can't perform.

"It's just really about keeping the quality and integrity of the choreography," she says, adding that it takes roughly three weeks of eight-hour rehearsals almost every day to get a new production of Mamma Mia! up to speed.

Raised in Sacramento, Calif., Wielstein trained as a classical ballerina and danced with The Sacramento Ballet before turning to musical theatre.

Based in L.A., she has performed in some of the most successful musicals of all time, including CATS, Hairspray, Oklahoma, RENT and The Rocky Horror Show.

Though there are drawbacks to being in a touring production, including exhaustion and not seeing family and friends for weeks or months on end, Wielstein says the cast and crew of Mamma Mia! make sure they look out for each other.

"We were travelling for Thanksgiving so we did a Mamma Mia! Thanksgiving together," she recalls.

"It was a fun reminder that family can be whoever you're with. We make the most of birthdays on the road. It can be really hard if you're a million miles from home.

The hit musical Mamma Mia!, based on the catchy pop songs of ABBA, is on stage at the Jubilee Auditorium from April 16 until April 20. CONTRIBUTED

Details

Mamma Mia! runs April 16 until April 20 at the Jubilee Auditorium.

- Tickets are $45 to $125 and are available through ticketmaster.com or by calling 1-855-985-5000.
- The musical is in its 13th year on the Great White Way, making it the 10th longest-running show in Broadway history.
- More than 4.3 million people in 35 countries have seen the international touring version.

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Mark Rendall takes the helm of his acting career

Mark Rendall, right, stars in Algonquin, which opens in Toronto on Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Algonquin.
Toronto actor took some time away from the industry to reflect on his career choices

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Actor Mark Rendall prepared for his new film by not preparing.

At least not in the traditional sense.

He co-stars in Algonquin with Nicholas Campbell — who Rendall calls "a legend" — in a story about estranged fathers, newfound brothers and a young man who discovers what makes family truly important.

Rendall, who has been acting in films like Childstar and TV shows such as Hannibal since the age of 10, calls the new movie "the first dramatic lead I have done at a more mature point in my life."

More mature physically, but also in life experience.

"I took two years off from acting to go to school and find out what I really wanted," says the 25-year-old.

"I wanted to explore other things because I had been acting for so long. Algonquin is the first performance I did coming back onto it.

"I did so much in those two years that had I continued acting I wouldn't have experienced.

"I feel a good actor is someone who has lived and isn't pretending to emote or show an experience on screen, but is actually feeling it.

"Someone who has been there. I needed those experiences and time away to grow in ways that I feel acting would have sheltered me from."

He continued leading a creative life, just one away from the camera.

"When I wasn't acting, I was taking instrument building classes.

"That is a real passion of mine. I really respect Daniel Day Lewis for learning how to become a cobbler.

"I think that is beautiful, because one thing you miss when acting is working with your hands or doing really organic artistic endeavours that you're in control of.

"In the end, with instrument making I'm the one editing, directing, buying the material and producing the end result. It's an individual and personal process — more so than acting, I think.

"Acting is not a one-man operation. It's a team, it's like being part of a family for a while with lots of people working to make something.

"There is always a director and a writer and you're always kind of portraying someone else's dream, but to actually be in control of your own dream is amazing."

Quoted

"I feel a good actor is someone who has lived and isn't pretending to emote or show an experience on screen, but is actually feeling it"
Mark Rendall on the art of acting

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See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to see a video of the Trailer Park Boys telling you why you should watch their new film

Trailer Park Boys are still living the dream

Don't Legalize It.
Ricky, Julian and Bubbles are back and drunker than ever

LIZ BROWN
liz.brown@metronews.ca

As my photographer and I file into a suite at Toronto's Grand Hotel, we're hit with the stench of stale cigarettes and sweat-out liquor.

Bubbles horks a snot rocket before offering to shake hands with us. Ricky and Julian follow suit — sans loogie — and the trio settle into the overstuffed microsuede couch to talk about their upcoming movie, Don't Legalize It, the third feature film for the Trailer Park Boys.

Three movies and an enduring TV series (a new 10-episode season will debut on Netflix later this year) isn't too shabby an accomplishment for the trio from Dartmouth's Sunnyvale Trailer Park. But the boys don't let the success get to their heads. They're still living hard and while they were here for the Toronto premiere of Don't Legalize It, they made the most of their time in the big city.

"It's fantastic," Bubbles says when asked how he's liking Toronto.

"We like it," groans Julian behind a pair of dark aviators. "We were up late last night."

How late?

"Oh, about 7:30 a.m.," says Bubbles.

It's now noon and the sun is beating into the hotel room.

But Bubbles insists they were only drinking cherry colas. I should've been a better journalist and clarified — though I'm pretty sure he meant the type of colas made of spiced rum and amaretto.

Ricky has been silent so far, slouching on the far end of the couch, hiding behind a pair of sunglasses and looking slightly sweaty. But we want to hear from him — he's the real star of this film, after all, as he treks to Ottawa in a camper van to make an inspired speech about why it's a mistake to legalize dope.

He looks a little ashen but tries his best to articulate his arguments. "I think if they're going to legalize it, they should at least let the people who are growing and selling it like me keep doing their job," he says.

"There's enough unemployment. If they're going to legalize it, they should be doing it the right way; it shouldn't just be the government just taking all the money. Their dope is probably going to suck, you might not be able to get honey oil or hash any more, so I don't know if it's a good thing."

I think that's the best I'm going to get out of these still-drunk boys, so I wrap the interview.

But later that night, at the after-party, after the premiere of the film and a few downed cocktails, I see Ricky. I flip him the bird and tell him he has some off to f—k. "That was a terrible interview," I tell him. "Maybe the worst ever."

"What do you want from me? I was hungover as f—k?" he shoots back.

Fair enough.

As if to make amends, he invites me to do a shot. I oblige. Even after a decade, life is still good as a Trailer Park Boy.

Trailer Park Boys 3: Don't Legalize It, opens in theatres next Friday, April 18. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Quoted

"Their dope is probably going to suck, you might not be able to get honey oil or hash any more, so I don't know if it's a good thing."
Ricky on why we shouldn't legalize pot

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Wish granted: Tina & Amy to star in sister comedy

How is it that we can put a man on the moon, but Amy Poehler and Tina Fey have only starred in one film together? And that film was Baby Mama? (Mean Girls doesn't count. They had supporting roles in that.) Luckily, things are about to change. According to the Hollywood Reporter, the stars of 30 Rock and Parks and Recreation will co-star in The Nest, a dark period thriller. Just kidding, it's a comedy, obviously. The Nest is about adult sisters (they're playing sisters!) who find out that their parents are selling their childhood home, so they decide to throw one last big party there. In the process, they learn to mature. The Nest will be directed by Jay Roach, who also directed Pitch Perfect. It's written by Paula Pell, a former Saturday Night Live writer who also played Pete's wife on 30 Rock.

After 27 years, Tom Ford and his partner have fashionably late nuptials

Fashion icon Tom Ford is officially off the market, as he and his partner of 27 years, former Vogue Hommes International editor Richard Buckley, recently tied the knot in a very quiet ceremony, according to Vogue. Ford let the news slip casually while speaking at the Regent Street Apple Store opening in London earlier this week. "We are now married, which is nice," Ford said. "I know that was just made legal in the U.K., which is great. We were married in the States."

Tom Ford

The Word

Gwynnie might need practice at conscious uncoupling

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York

Moses Martin, the son of Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin, turned eight on Tuesday, and Gwyneth posted this sweet pic on Twitter for his birthday. Yeah, happy birthday, Moses — now run and play, because we need to talk to your mom about something.

Check out her hand in the photo. Despite her much publicized "conscious uncoupling" from Chris Martin, it appears that Gwyneth is still wearing her wedding ring. That's assuming this is a current photo, of course, which seems likely — Moses' "Aw, Mom" expression certainly looks like an eight-year-old boy to me.

So what do you think is the deal with the ring? I'd say maybe she's not ready to remove it, but I don't think Gwyneth Paltrow has ever shown that kind of emotional weakness in her life. And I say that with tremendous and earnest respect. She's an oil-pulling, hydrangea-stroking pillar of steel. No, the ring must be a deliberate step in her conscious uncoupling. Unless her conscious uncoupling has gone so well that she's already remarried to someone else.

Kate Mulgrew

Big Red in a new film that makes some big claims

Say it ain't so, Captain Janeway. Kate Mulgrew, who currently stars as Big Red on Orange Is the New Black, is part of a new movie about geocentrism — the belief that the sun orbits the Earth. Mulgrew, who also spent seven years playing a starship captain on Star Trek: Voyager, narrates The Principle by ultra-conservative Robert Sungenis, who maintains the blog Galileo Was Wrong. So is Mulgrew a devotee of Sungenis' extremely bogus theory? Unclear. She does say that "everything we think we know about our universe is wrong" in the trailer, though apparently not everyone who was in that trailer chose to be there. On second thought, let's hope she really does buy into geocentrism, because that would probably break new ground in the realm of weird celebrity beliefs.

Twitter

@TheRock
Alright.. 3 hrs sleep, but kickin' jet lag's ass. Its time to work.. Good morning from lovely London.

@ladygaga
just basically ate all the birthday cake I was supposed to eat last week but had shows so I dieted it was so good. it was yummy yums

@WhitneyCummings
People: please make your emails funnier in general

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Spring clean your style

Won't you let them live?! In the spirit of reducing, reusing and recycling, we look at three ways to deal with your done-for duds this spring without tossing them in the trash

ELIZABETH BEDDALL
elizabeth.beddall
@metronews.ca

Perfectly distressed denim jeans, how I've loved you so, but it's time to let you go. ISTOCK

Whether you've stuck to your New Year's resolutions or not, the sun is coming out and revealing that you are a different person than you were back when the halls were being decked.

Spring is almost here and it's time to reassess that wardrobe. But what do you do with those piles of threads that no longer thrill you? Let us give you a few fashionable tips for figuring that out.

Sell 'em

Sites such as Craigslist, Kijiji and eBay Canada have made it easy for regular folks to become retail mavericks. If you've got a few pieces that you picked out in a fit of passion, but never quite figured out how to flaunt, selling them to a more suitable style hunter might be the way to go.

But if you've never opened up shop on a web-based platform, it may be difficult to know how to get visitors to even give your garments a second look.

London-based luxury gown designer Farishta Zarify, who won the eBay Canada 2013 Entrepreneur of the Year award for her successful online store, says it's all about the visuals.

"It's online shopping, so you're taking away the experience of seeing the item in person," says Zarify, who recommends taking plenty of photographs of each garment in proper lighting and with a simple background.

"Also make sure to list all the defining characteristics like brand name, size and measurements so the customer knows exactly what they're going to get."

Donate 'em

There's arguably no better way to feel good about saying goodbye to your garments than by giving them away to a great cause.

There are plenty of organizations across Canada that will accept your gently used clothing, including The Salvation Army and Clothesline for the Canadian Diabetes Association.

And what if spring has brought with it a brand new job and you no longer need that blazer and those flashy flats?

Turn your charitable sights to Dress for Success, a worldwide organization with locations across Canada, which helps to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing them with professional attire received via drop-off donation.

"In the process of picking out an outfit and having a conversation with a volunteer stylist, our clients are transformed," says executive director of Dress for Success's Toronto chapter, Paige Souter.

"They start to believe that the next chapter in their lives will be better than the part that they're leaving."

And if you've had a pile accumulating in your closet for ages but lack the means to lug it to your local donation box, you can pay a quick visit to donationtown.org, an online directory of charities that offer donation pick-up service.

Rework 'em

Welcome to the generation of DIY, where every item can be manipulated into something even more magnificent. So don't give up on that garment – it's got life in it yet! To prove this to you, we asked Alana Kumar, the Victoria, B.C.-based creator of DIY blog dreamcreate.ca, to suggest four ways to breathe new life into your wardrobe:

- Use your scissors! Sometimes clothes have unnecessary ruffles, bows, etc. Say a prayer to the DIY gods and start having fun. Cutting ruffles can transform a girly top or dress into a much more classic silhouette, and give your piece a second chance.
- Turn a dress into a skirt. Take a maxi dress and simply tuck the top under. Now you have a new maxi skirt that you can pair with any top.
- For pieces with a few layers like a dress, try removing the top layer with a pair of scissors, sometimes the "shell" of the dress is more beautiful and simple than the original.
- For pieces with a few layers like a dress, try removing the top layer with a pair of scissors, sometimes the "shell" of the dress is more beautiful and simple than the original.

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Amanda Assing

Age: 32

Occupation: EA at Juniper Park and Open Studio contributor

What she's wearing:
"This black gem of a coat I found in this little vintage store in New York. I died. It's boiled wool and collarless. Reminded we of a collarless Chanel coat and I literally wear this everyday. These pants strangely are from the Gap — the loose fit is perfect for running around on the job. Club Monaco top is classic and translates in any country. Alpaca wool scarf is a find from Kensington market and it's ridiculously warm."

Her inspiration:
Mash-up of Emmanuelle Alt + loose patterns prints.

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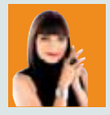

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
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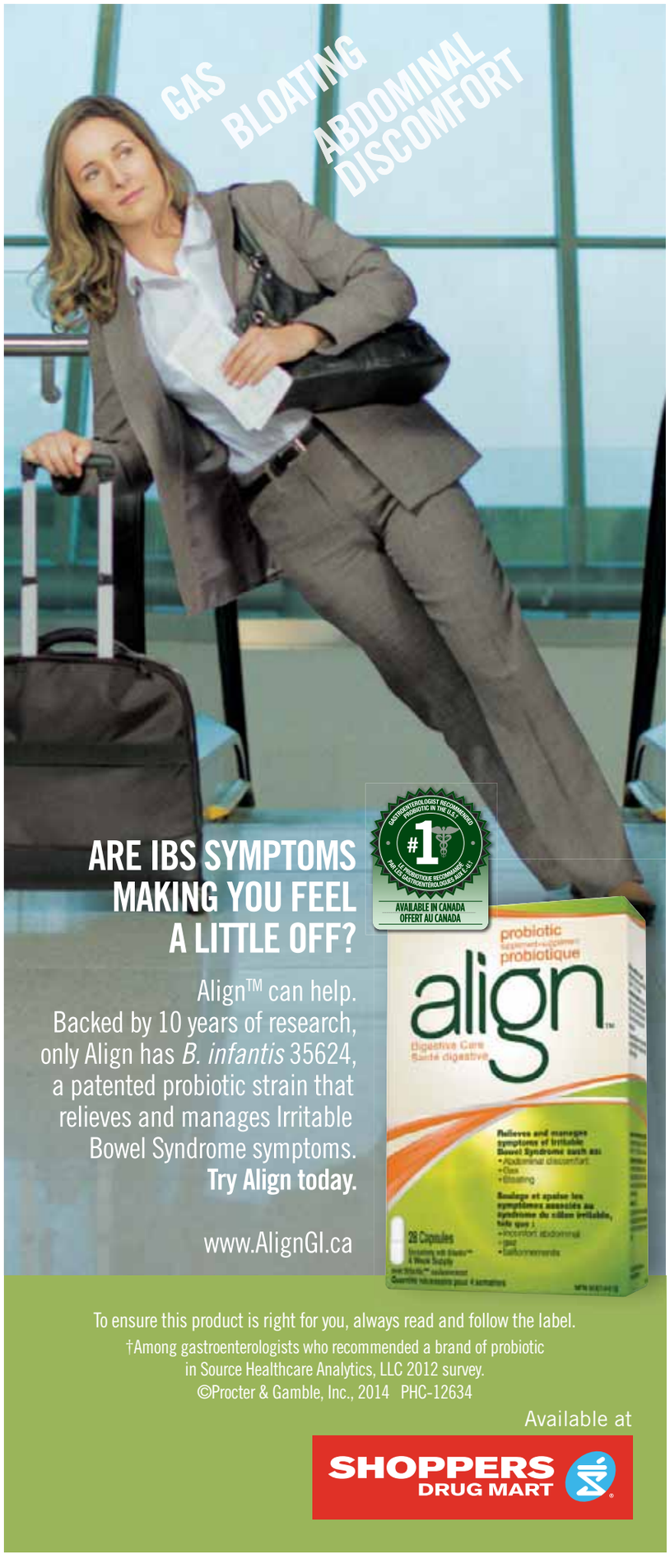
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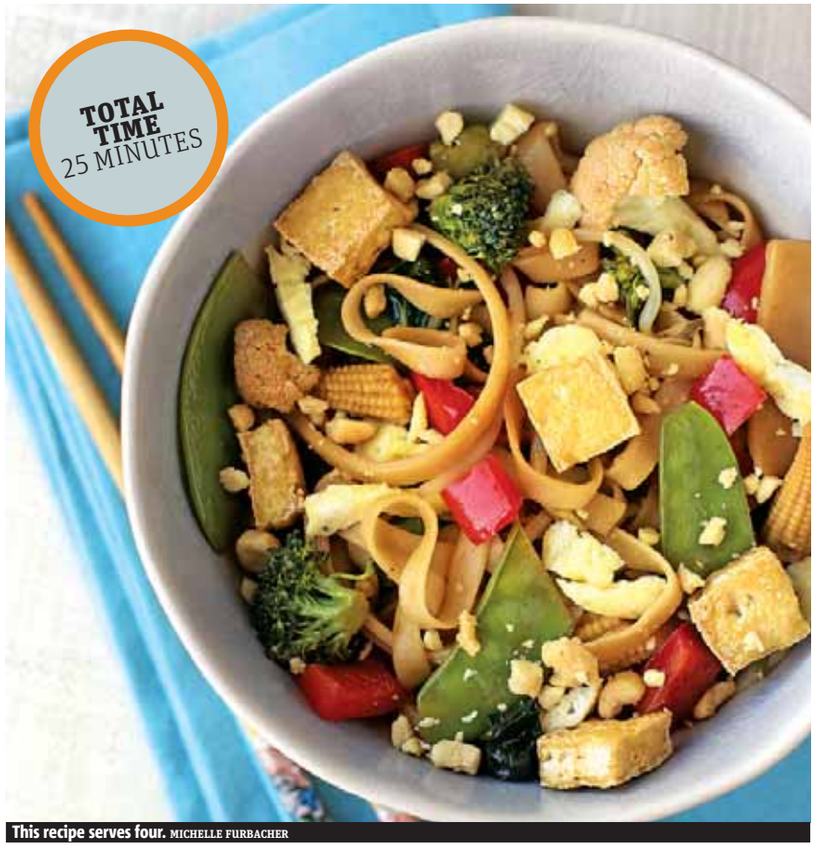


This recipe serves four. MICHELLE FURBACHER

Quintessential Thai flavours compliment veg

Vegetable Pad Thai.

Everyone's favourite street dish from Thailand goes vegetarian

"(Pad Thai) is a traditional national dish served all over Thailand. It's sweet and spicy with a hint of tartness thanks to the lime, and features a wide variety of vegetables," writes Linda Woolven in The All-New Vegetarian Passport.

1. Cook the noodles according to the package instructions.

2. In a large frying pan, heat the oil. Add the tofu and cook, stirring, for about 7 minutes, or until slightly browned. Add the egg (if using) and cook, stirring, for about 2 minutes. Add the bok choy, bell pepper, broccoli and cauliflower and cook, stirring, for 3 to 4 minutes. Add the mung bean sprouts, snow peas, baby corn, bamboo shoots, soy sauce, rice vinegar and chili flakes and cook, stirring, for 3 to 4 minutes. Add the noodles and peanuts and heat through. Serve with lime wedges to garnish.

RECIPES FROM THE ALL-NEW VEGETARIAN PASSPORT BY LINDA WOOLVEN (WHITECAP, 2013)

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

Ingredients

- 6 oz (175 g) wide brown-rice Thai noodles
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) first cold pressed extra virgin olive oil
- 2 oz (60 g) extra-firm tofu, cubed
- 1 egg, beaten (optional; omit for diabetes, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and vegan diet)
- 2 baby bok choy, chopped
- 1 medium-size red bell pepper, diced (omit for rheumatoid arthritis)
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) broccoli florets
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) cauliflower florets
- 1 cup (250 ml) mung bean sprouts
- Handful each of snow peas, canned baby corn, drained and rinsed; canned bamboo shoots, drained and rinsed
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) soy sauce
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) rice vinegar
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) chili flakes
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) crushed unsalted peanuts
- lime wedges

Go to Russia for traditional kasha

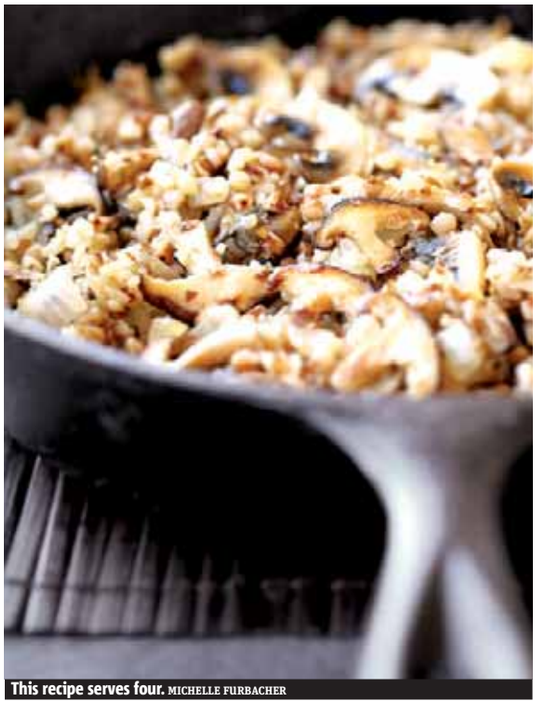
Ingredients

- 1/2 cup (375 ml) uncooked kasha (buckwheat)
- 1–2 tbsp (15–30 ml) dairy-free non-hydrogenated margarine, or first cold pressed extra virgin olive oil
- 2 large white onions, diced
- 4 cups (1 l) sliced button or fresh shiitake mushrooms (for use shiitake)
- 1 cup (250 ml) vegetable stock
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried thyme
- sea salt and pepper (for use sodium substitute)

"(This is a) traditional Jewish dish from Russia that my mom loved," writes Linda Woolven in The All-New Vegetarian Passport. "The thyme is my addition — it's a good source of antioxidants — and buckwheat is a gluten-free grain, so it's great for celiacs."

1. Place the kasha in a pot with 3 cups (750 ml) water. Bring to a boil on high heat. Reduce the heat to medium-low and cook, covered, for about 15 minutes or until tender.

2. In a large frying pan, heat the margarine on medium heat and sauté the onions, stirring, for about 15 minutes. Add the mushrooms and sauté for about 7 minutes. Add the cooked kasha, stock, thyme, and sea salt and pepper to taste. Cook, stirring, for about 5 minutes.



This recipe serves four. MICHELLE FURBACHER

Cookbook of the Week

Around the world

Discover the best vegetarian delicacies from all over the world without leaving your kitchen. In The All-New Vegetarian Passport, Linda Woolven exposes readers to international flavours that also help to create a healthy new relationship between your body and your plate.

The book boasts 350 of Woolven's favourite recipes and is split into sections that include North Africa and The Middle East, The Mediterranean, Europe, India, Asia, Latin America and The Caribbean, North America and more.

In addition to recipes, the book includes icons on each recipe to show readers which ones are best to make if they have cancer, celiac disease, diabetes, gout, heart disease, memory loss, multiple sclerosis, ostheoathritis or rheumatoid arthritis.

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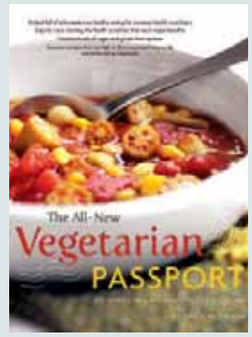

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MICHAEL JUNG/SHUTTERSTOCK

LEAVE A LASTING IMPRESSION

You have just seven seconds to make a first impression. And a ready smile, neat and appropriate attire, and fresh breath, especially, are all part of making a good one.

On the other hand, bad breath (as well as being grouchy, wearing ill-fitting clothing, and playing with your hair or moustache) leaves a lasting bad impression.

Here are times when good oral hygiene and body care are especially important.

THE COCKTAIL PARTY: There is no way around close contact at a social gathering. You are rubbing shoulders with strangers, having quick conversations with old friends, and spotting people across the room that you would really like to meet.

A JOB INTERVIEW: Problems like bad breath can definitely spoil your chances in an important job interview. There is going to be a handshake and a discussion, perhaps in close vicinity.

A FIRST DATE: Meeting a potential partner for the first time is stressful as it is. You don't want to worry about your breath. And you certainly don't want to find out that this person takes your breath away — in a bad way.

KARAOKE: Sharing a stage puts you in very close quarters with another person, and if you are belting out a song together into one microphone, yikes.

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THE AIRPORT: Whether you are arriving at the airport yourself or you are picking someone up, there are going to be hugs and kisses with all the greetings.

DINNER PARTY: Getting together around a dinner table is what you do to have fun, and you can count on lots of hugs and kisses at the beginning and end.

VLADIMIR GJORGIEV/SHUTTERSTOCK

BAD BREATH CAN BE A BUMMER

Research has shown halitosis is a confidence killer, and can make a person super sensitive about breath problems.

The sooner you determine if you have a problem, the sooner you can do something about it.

To find out:

- Cover your mouth and nose with your hand, and exhale. Now breathe in through your nose. Does the air smell bad?
- Watch how people react when you talk. Do they stand at a distance, or act a little odd after you speak?
- If your partner starts to avoid kissing you on the mouth, there may be an issue. But it may be their breath, too.

What to do? Improve your oral hygiene by brushing your teeth, flossing, and using a dental mouthwash, regularly. Talk to your dentist about your concerns, and be sure to always carry mints and mouthwash, too.

REFRESHING TIPS FOR MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

You have been thinking about this moment for a while. Now the lights are low, the two of you are alone, love is definitely in the air. You lean in, close your eyes and purse your lips for that first kiss — and wait and wait.

OMG. Your date has recoiled. Was it your breath?

Bad breath is actually one of society's oldest and most troublesome social problems. Called halitosis, it can be caused by different factors, including poor oral hygiene, strong smelling foods such as fish, onion, garlic, and even coffee, smoking, and dental and health problems. It is the third most frequent reason — after cavities and periodontal disease — that people see their dentist.

Often, a relationship problem has spurred on the visit. Since sense of smell is so closely linked to your emotions, sweet smelling breath has everything to do with love, kissing and connecting — or not connecting.

SINGLE — AND NOT LOVING IT

Bad breath is often referred to as a social life killer. In fact, in research, sufferers say it ruins their life.

Not surprisingly, single people with bad breath often have problems dating, and getting married. Furthermore, they are so anxious about their breath in social settings that they avoid face-to-face encounters and can become loners — and lonely.

Thirty-four per cent of survey participants with halitosis said their bad breath made them hesitant to speak to others.

SANTIAGO CORNEJO/SHUTTERSTOCK

If you are starting to date someone you really like who has bad breath, try some subtle hints such as eating mints after dinner, avoiding strong smelling foods, and even talking about your own oral hygiene habits.

MARRIED — AND NOT LOVING IT EITHER

In research, sufferers say bad breath causes them to sleep separately from their spouse.

While couples who have been together for a while can be forgiving and understanding, bad breath can still be difficult to ignore, especially in the bedroom. Halitosis is often the reason behind partner rejection and marital problems.

If bad breath is ruining intimate moments, be honest but be kind. Encourage your partner to brush their teeth, floss, and rinse with a mouthwash at least twice a day. This will prevent bacteria from settling in the mouth. If there is a new chronic bad breath issue, check in with the dentist, too.

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Bonsai, the haiku of the tree world

In rare form. Ancient technique of shaping trees is the zenith of container planting

A bonsai in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's collection. BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Many people have a bonsai story: A first bonsai, a struggling bonsai. And many of these stories do not end happily, at least for the bonsai.

But the very best bonsai stories are about passion and beauty and transformation.

"A dewdrop hanging for a split second — that is bonsai," said Julian Velasco, the curator of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's bonsai collection and C.V. Starr Bonsai Museum. "It's very Zen-like. It's awesome."

For Velasco, who nurtures over 350 bonsai trees at the botanic garden — one of the largest and oldest bonsai collections on public display outside Japan — it all started with a bonsai he purchased as a young man at a street fair in San Francisco.

"Pretty quickly I knew it would be a lifelong path," he said.

"When you see the Grand Canyon or Yosemite, you are taking in the emotion of the place as much as the visual image," and bonsai is about that emotion, he said. It is the haiku of the tree world.

"About 30 years ago, a friend brought a bonsai for me from Hawaii, and I've been hooked ever since. Now my wife and I have hundreds of bonsai," he said. "Bonsai are a long-term commitment, though, and most take at least a decade to create. Some can hardly go a day without some kind of care. It's almost like having a pet."

Although Velasco said the ultimate goal is to "open your heart to the tree," he has a few more practical tips for novices.

The first is to choose a variety of tree suited to your environment. Bonsai are trees or shrubs, and most varieties should be grown outside, where they require a period of dormancy in winter.

For most people, however, who want to grow their bonsai indoors or keep them outdoors only in warmer months, tropical varieties like the ficus or Australian brush cherry, with its interesting flower and bark, are good choices. Both are sturdy enough to endure a few beginners' mistakes, do well indoors and can be kept outside so long as temperatures are above 16 degrees Celsius.

Another good option, particularly for people with access to an outdoor growing space, is Chinese elm, which is adaptable and can also be grown indoors.

The next step along the continuum of hardiness is junipers, particularly Chinese and procumbens varieties. Small varieties of azaleas, which are sturdy with nice leaves and flowers, are also popular among bonsai enthusiasts, Velasco said.

Outdoor bonsai are delicate, however, and need to be protected once temperatures reach -6 degrees C.

"Most people will bury just the pot part of the bonsai in soil and mulch up against a house or fence to protect it from drying winds. Burying the pot evens out the temperature for the roots so there are no sudden drops or super hard freezes," Velasco said.

Another strategy is burying just the pot part of the bonsai under a bench in the winter, and covering the bench with some clear plastic.

In addition to selecting the right variety, beginners need to understand bonsai stress and watering, Velasco said.

"A lot of times people bring home a bonsai and it drops its leaves and looks unwell. It's just stressed out. It needs time to adjust, and a little patience," he explained. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bonsai for beginners

Bonsai, Japanese for "planted in a tray," originated in China in around 200 A.D., and the art spread several hundred years later to Japan. The art of bonsai was introduced to the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and at least one of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden bonsai trees is more than 200 years old.

- Bonsai is horticulture, art, philosophy and even a way of life in the form of a single tree, lovingly pruned and trained to exist in a small pot so that it reflects the majesty of the natural environment, explained Julian Velasco, the curator of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's bonsai collection.
- Luckily for beginners, learning to nurture a bonsai has never been easier.
- Expert help, once found only in Japan or China, is now more readily available at bonsai clubs and shops around the world. The American Bonsai Society lists bonsai clubs across the United States and Canada, and Bonsai Clubs International lists clubs worldwide.

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Green thumb or no, these are good to grow

Indoor decor and more. Plants pretty enough to eat or sturdy enough to neglect

Homeowners who are wary of growing plants indoors, especially if they travel often or are prone to forgetting to water, might want to consider a variety of low-maintenance plants that breathe life and design into a room.

"I've actually been starting to put plants into all of my projects," says Kyla Bidgood, an interior designer. "They just bring a whole other level of life and cosiness to a space."

The Victoria-based Bidgood says there are easy ways to bring plants into a space, even for those without a green thumb.

Living on air

"A great way to add some greenery to a space that is really low maintenance is air plants," she says.

Tillandsia, also known as air plants, are native to the forests, mountains and deserts of Central and South America, the southern United States and the West Indies. They don't need soil because water and nutrients are absorbed through the leaves, and their roots serve only as an anchor.

"They are awesome, and you can put them in everything," says Bidgood. "There are lamps where you can put something in the base of the lamp, and you can pop an air plant in there."

High and low

Combining plants of various heights and kinds is a great way to create dimension and design in a room.

In her living room, Bidgood combined a tall blood orange tree with a smaller rubber tree to create a visually interesting vignette.

Citrus appeal

"If you have the natural light and have a green thumb, citrus plants are great," she says. "They produce beautiful fruit you can actually eat, but they do need more water and light."

Bringing edible plants indoors, like citrus trees, not only adds colour and life to a room, but it also allows homeowners to have a taste of spring in their home year round.

Edible flowers

Judy Kenzie, owner of Strathcona 1890 Urban Seed Collections, grows her garden in containers around her yard and indoors.

"This year, I tried to grow edible flowers inside," she says. "I wanted to try it and germinate, and grow them inside."

According to Kenzie, growing edible plants inside often requires some experimentation, and a willingness to see the plants homeowners may already have as food.

"What a lot of people don't realize are things like pansies that you can buy as indoor potted plants are edible flowers," she says. "You could have those flowers on your window sill and they would be beautiful, and you can throw them in your salad."

Pea plants are another option for injecting pops of colour into your kitchen, while also being great to add to salads and sandwiches.

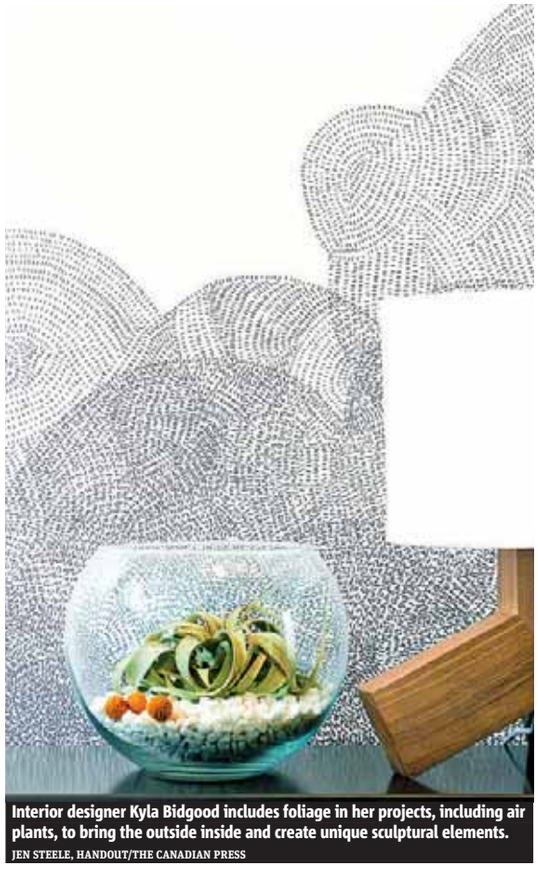
Even though a homeowner would have to pollinate the plant to get peas, Kenzie explains, the rest of the plant is edible from the flowers to the leaves.

Greens year-round

A piece of equipment Kenzie hopes will become a fixture in every kitchen is a grow light, which allows homeowners to grow lettuces and salad greens year-round.

Grow lights are commonly used by gardeners to help start seeds indoors in the spring, but Kenzie says homeowners could use them to nurture greens to supply their household, and even their neighbours, throughout the cold winter months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Interior designer Kyla Bidgood includes foliage in her projects, including air plants, to bring the outside inside and create unique sculptural elements.

JEN STEELE, HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Market roundup

Metro takes a cross-Canada trip to find out how far $300,000 to $350,000 will go in today's housing market.

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Calgary

This cowtown condo, deep in Calgary's south end, is sure to make any homeowner proud. Built by award-winning Homes by Avi, it offers 1,184 square feet of living space, complete with espresso cabinets and an island in the kitchen. A double garage, fenced backyard and private concrete patio complete this stylish south-end home. Asking price is $344,000.

LISTING: RE/MAX HOUSE OF REAL ESTATE

Halifax

Comfort and convenience combine in this well cared for and tastefully updated three-bedroom home. Besides 1,144 square feet of space, good insulation and new windows make for a high EnerGuide rating. The property is located close to the shops and restaurants of nearby Hydrostone Market. Asking price is $348,900. A professional paint job is promised prior to closing.

LISTING: KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

Regina

This family-friendly home includes four bedrooms and four washrooms, as well as a generous sized lawn and an oversized single-vehicle, attached garage. Asking price is $339,900. The square footage comes in at slightly more than 1,400 square feet. Recent renovations involved an additional two-piece washroom and allowing for direct backyard access on the main level. The yard includes an outdoor skating rink and a hot tub, both negotiable.

LISTING: ROYAL LEPAGE REGINA REALTY

Ottawa

This three-storey, award-winning townhouse is all ready for a homeowner. Asking price is $314,500. There are two regular bedrooms on the third floor, as well as a four-piece, ensuite washroom off a third master bedroom, also on the third floor. The second level houses a large chef's kitchen with dining and living room areas, while a mud room and family

room are located on the first floor.

LISTING: EXIT REALTY MATRIX

Vancouver

This spacious one-bedroom, one-washroom condominium is a stone's throw away from Jericho Beach, making it a perfect location for pet lovers. The property includes stainless steel appliances, stone counters and dark hardwood floors, as well as a 16-foot south-facing patio. Nearby shopping and an enormous master bedroom

make this 656-square-foot, $342,500 unit a steal of a deal.

LISTING: SUTTON GROUP WEST COAST REALTY

Toronto

While not exactly downtown living, this three-bedroom, two-bathroom home fits the first-timer's price point. It is located close to transit, shopping and schools. The open-concept design includes laminate floor and garage access from the inside, all for an asking price of $324,900. An additional monthly fee of $190 goes

toward snow removal and lawn care.

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Become interested in rates

Borrowing money to buy a home is likely going to be the biggest financial commitment you ever make. So it's important to do your research and understand what you're getting into.

Here's a quick guide.

Interest rates

Homebuyers have enjoyed low interest rates for a while now. "And I think they're going to hold for several more months," said Toronto mortgage broker David Smith. "By the fall, we're probably going to see 3.09 and 3.1 perhaps, and these are still extraordinary low rates and cheap money."

Down payment

Put down at least 20 per cent of the home price, advises Will Britton, a financial adviser in Kingston, Ont., and a member of Advocis, the Financial Advisors Association of Canada.

You will qualify for a conventional mortgage loan, which is equal to or less than 80 per cent of the lending value of the property. Otherwise, a high-ratio mortgage requires mortgage loan insurance from a provider such as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and that will cost more.

Pre-approval

It's important to be pre-approved for a mortgage by a bank. "Given how competitive the marketplace is, if your offer has a condition on financing, you won't win the property," Smith said.

YLVA VAN BUUREN

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It's a good idea to carefully consider what you want in a house first before you start looking. STEPHEN COBURN/SHUTTERSTOCK

Understand the process

JENNIFER TAPLIN
For Metro

Buying a house can be an overwhelming financial decision.

First-time homebuyers tend to be highly educated and are quite thorough with their research by using online tools to find potential properties and calculate costs. But they aren't as confident when it comes to mortgages and the technical process of buying a house, said Terri Gibbons, with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, who is based in North York, Ont.

"It is important for first-time homebuyers to determine how much they can afford before they begin the process, keeping in mind all of the upfront costs," Gibbons said. "It is recommended that first-time buyers seek out a mortgage professional and ask lots of questions and clarify their understanding along the way."

It's also a good idea to carefully consider what they want in a house first before they start looking, she added. Considerations include number of bedrooms, location, resale potential, and any renovation costs.

"It is costly to move, so these considerations are very important," Gibbons said.

When all the ducks are in a row and first-time house hunters find the right property at the right price, Winnipeg real estate lawyer Leandro Zylberman advises to take a breath before making an offer.

"When I get into the picture, it's usually after the offer has been signed and accepted," he said. "Once I get that, it's too late to make any changes."

If there are components of the offer the buyers don't understand, they can make the offer subject to lawyer approval, Zylberman advised.

This part of the process is made easier with advice of a real estate agent, who doesn't charge commission for buying a house, only for selling, Zylberman said, which is a definite perk for first-timers.

And don't forget about the closing costs, which can be more than moving and lawyer fees. Many provinces have a land or deed transfer tax that catches many first-time homebuyers unaware.

From start to finish, the homebuying journey can be a long one. According to CMHC statistics, first-time homebuyers take three months longer than repeat buyers to make their purchase. That's about 10 months total of planning.

Almost two-thirds of first-time homebuyers are younger than 35, where only 20 per cent of repeat buyers are younger than 35 years of age. A large majority, 82 per cent, of first-time buyers have a post-secondary education.

Condos. Settle into a different type of lifestyle

YLVA VAN BUUREN
For Metro

It's a great time to buy a condominium.

The market is more balanced compared to houses, says Toronto mortgage broker David Smith. And there are lots of long- and short-term benefits.

Here is a list to consider:

1 Affordability. While budget will dictate location, amenities and size, a condominium is usually more affordable than a house. "For many first-time buyers, it's the only way to enter the real estate market," Smith said.

2 Availability. There are lots of condos on the market, Smith said, and they are good value — an anticipated downward direction of prices hasn't occurred.

3 Ease of living. Christopher Dewdney, a Toronto financial adviser and member of Advocis, the Financial Advisors Association of Canada, says condo fees generally cover maintenance such as snow removal, lawn care, and even indoor plumbing in some cases. Many condominiums provide amenities such as a pool, fitness club, and outdoor barbecues.

4 Lifestyle. Some condominiums are "lifestyle communities" with regular events such as wine tasting and movie nights where owners can network and meet new friends.

5 Safety. Most condos have built-in security including security cameras and a concierge.

6 Good investment. "Historically, you see an appreciation in the value of real estate," Dewdney said. That's great compared to renting where you end up with no equity or ownership. A condominium could become a rental property in the future for you, too.

7 Net worth. You are building your net worth. Through the property, you are building equity, Dewdney said. "If there's a financial opportunity or emergency, you could always secure a line of credit against that equity in the property."

8 Stepping Stone. A condominium will be worth more in the future — if you sell it, you can use the surplus towards a new property or investment.

Be prepared and know what you can afford for a down payment for a new home, and what your price range and budget are before you get started.
MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

An investment that's worth the challenge

KRISTA SYLVESTER
For Metro

Buying your first home can be a daunting task but it's an investment that is worth the challenge, especially if you know the tricks of the trade.

Calgary realtor Bill Leesman is experienced in helping first-time homebuyers find their ideal first home and his biggest advice would be to do their research first.

"You have to be prepared and know what you can afford for a down payment, and what your price range and budget are before you get started," he said.

"First-time homebuyers should be prepared to keep their first home for at least four or five years in order to get enough equity to be able to upgrade to a new home later on. Buying your first home for just a year or two doesn't make much sense."

That's why Leesman recommends buying the right size of home — if you are going to have a growing family, make sure you have enough room in the house down the road.

And while nice appliances and several bedrooms are always nice to have, they don't factor in to the overall cost as much as some people might believe, Leesman said. Leesman cautions homebuyers to make sure the appliances are in working order or they might have to buy new ones after they move in.

However, developed basements and garages certainly drive the cost up.

"People are actually better off buying homes with undeveloped basements and without garages and then finishing them later themselves. People can generally build their own garage or develop the basement after the fact for less than what it would cost added on to the house price."

Another big factor that can drive up the cost of a home is location. "Busier streets tend to cost less than quieter streets or houses in cul-de-sacs," Leesman said.

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When will you buy your first home?

KRISTA SYLVESTER
For Metro

If you are in your early to mid-30s and you are just buying your first home you aren't alone.

Almost two-thirds of Canadian first-time homebuyers are younger than 35 years old, with almost half falling between the ages of 25 to 34, according to recent studies.

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) conducted a first-time homebuyer study in 2013 and discovered that consumers are most likely to buy their first home by 35, while only 20 per cent of repeat buyers fall under the same demographic.

"Consistent with a younger age profile, first-time buyers have lower household incomes compared to other homebuyers," said Terri Gibbons, CMHC manager of business development for the Ontario region. "Nearly two-thirds of first-time buyers have a household income of $90,000 a year or less, while one in five have less than $45,000. And although first-time buyers may have lower household incomes, they tend to have higher levels of education compared to other mortgage consumers."

Gibbons said one particularly interesting statistic is that almost one-quarter of first-time buyers were born outside of Canada, while almost half of that demographic lives in Ontario.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Montreal recently released its own report on first-time homebuyers that says the average price of a home in Canada has risen 83 per cent over the past 10 years, which is the No. 1 reason Canadians are delaying their first home purchase.

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When looking for your first home, should you consider buying the best house on the worst street, or the worst house on the best street? BURLINGHAM/SHUTTERSTOCK

Finding the perfect spot

JENNIFER TAPLIN
For Metro

The old adage that location, location, location is a top factor when buying a house is no joke. But determining that just right location can be a struggle for first-time homebuyers.

For example, should you consider buying the best house on the worst street, or the worst house on the best street?

"Your value is going to be the worst house on the best street," said Halifax real estate agent Paula Langille. "It's usually the most affordable."

Having the nicest house on the block isn't as advantageous because equity won't build as quickly, she said. But a fixer-upper on a charming street will be worth more in the long run.

"And also your carrying costs will be less than anyone else on the street; your taxes will be a bit less."

Marilynn Strilchuk, a real estate agent in rural Alberta, agrees. She said picking a good community can be the far better choice because of the equity.

And when it comes to choosing which community to live in — city, suburb or rural — there are several factors to nail down first before hitting any open houses.

Strilchuk said if a homebuyer has a family or plans to, they need to check out what services are available, such as schools, parks, and community centres.

Generally bigger houses with garages and large yards are more affordable in the suburbs, but that's not always the case. For example, properties in the Edmonton bedroom communities of St. Albert and Sherwood Park can be pricey, but Spruce Grove and Stony Plain are cheaper.

"Sometimes it's not about what you want when you're a first-time homebuyer, but it's what you can afford," Strilchuk said.

Rural properties provide the space, but they most likely come with a well and septic system instead of a municipal service, Langille said.

Some homebuyers place a higher priority on having a nearby bus route and want to be able to walk to work.

Where do you want to live?

Location is a critical factor. A home with everything you need, but in the wrong location is probably not the right home for you. Here are some tips from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to consider about location.

- Do you want to live in a city, a town or in the countryside?
- How easy will it be to get to where you work? How much will the commuting cost?
- Where will your children go to school? How will they get there?
- Do you need a safe walking area or recreational facility, such as a park, nearby?
- How close would you like to be to family and friends?

Oilers

Nurse sent to AHL's Oklahoma City Barons

The Edmonton Oilers assigned defenceman Darnell Nurse to the American Hockey League's Oklahoma City Barons, the NHL team announced Wednesday.

Nurse, the Oilers' first-round pick in the 2013 NHL Draft, had 13 goals, 37 assists, and 91 penalty minutes this season with the Ontario Hockey League's Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds.

The Hamilton native posted eight points with three goals and five assists in nine playoff games.

The 19-year-old has spent three seasons with the Greyhounds, registering 101 points (26 goals and 75 assists) and 268 penalty minutes in 185 games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Roughriders extend Taman through to 2017

Brendan Taman and Corey Chamblin are now tied at the hip.

Taman, the Saskatchewan Roughriders' general manager, signed an extension that keeps him under contract with the CFL club through the 2017 season.

Last month, Taman re-signed Chamblin as the club's head coach for the next four seasons.

However, Taman also received a promotion, adding the title of vice-president of football operations to his job description.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blackhawks alternate captain Patrick Sharp scores the overtime-winning goal as Canadiens, from left, Peter Budaj, Mike Weaver and David Desharnais watch on Wednesday night in Chicago. JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

Chicago Sharp-er than short-handed Habs

NHL. Sharp's goal in first minute of OT lifts Chicago to 3-2 win over Montreal

Patrick Sharp set up Marian Hossa's tying goal in the final minute of regulation and then got the game-winner 43 seconds into overtime to lift the Chicago Blackhawks to a 3-2 win over the Montreal Canadiens on Wednesday night.

Jeremy Morin also scored in the Blackhawks' fourth straight win overall, and their first in overtime this season after seven losses.

Sharp scored the winner on a shot from the slot that struck Montreal goalie Peter Budaj, rolled high off his equipment, ticked off the left post and landed in the net.

Hossa had tipped in Sharp's feed from the right corner to tie the game at 2 with 47.7 seconds left in the third period.

Corey Crawford finished with 28 saves in the Blackhawks' final regular season home game.

On Wednesday

3	2
Blackhawks	Canadiens

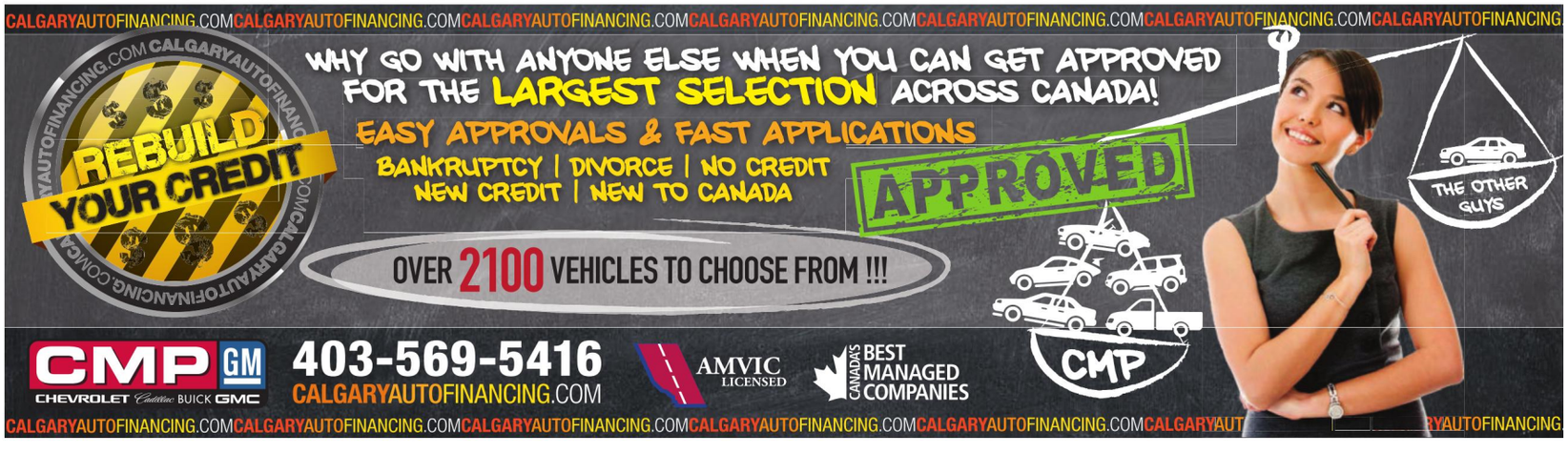
Dale Weise and Francis Bouillon scored for Montreal, which snapped a two-game win streak and lost for just the third time in its last 13 games. Budaj had 25 saves.

The Canadiens were without starting goalie Carey Price and defencemen Andrei Markov and Alexei Emelin, who didn't make the trip to Chicago so they could rest for the playoffs.

Not only was their little scoring, there were only two penalties — both on Montreal — in a cautiously played game between Original Six rivals with depleted lineups.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS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The Canucks fired GM Mike Gillis on Tuesday, but there were plenty other disappointing NHL campaigns around hockey this season. Scan this image to vote on who should be the next NHL executive to hit the road.

Jays' blast Astros into orbit

MLB. Morrow strikes out nine, Lawrie hits two-run homer in Toronto home win

When Blue Jays starter Brandon Morrow is on his game, his stuff can be electric and will often leave opposing hitters handcuffed.

He displayed that dominant form in a solid six-inning performance Wednesday night as Toronto defeated the Houston Astros 7-3 at Rogers Centre.

Morrow struck out nine batters as the Blue Jays (5-4) locked up their first series win of the young season and moved over the .500 mark in the process. The veteran right-hander was hitting the high 90s with his fastball and retired the first nine batters in order, fanning six along the way.

"He was throwing the crap out of the ball … he was using all of his pitches really (well) and he gave us a real shot to win the game," said Toronto catcher Dioner Navarro.

Jose Bautista watches a foul ball in Toronto on Wednesday night. The Blue Jays' popular slugger had a hit and scored two runs in a 7-3 win over the Astros. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Blue Jays staked Morrow to an early two-run lead and gave him a 5-0 cushion after five innings. The Astros battled back with three runs in the sixth before Brett Lawrie of Langley, B.C., provided some insurance with a two-run shot an inning later for his first homer of the season.

"They stung us there and battled back and got within reaching distance there, so it was good to put us back on top and put it out of reach later in the game," Lawrie said.

Melky Cabrera, Maicer Izturis and Navarro had two hits apiece as Toronto outhit the Astros 10-6.

Morrow (1-1) struck out the side in the first inning. The Astros didn't put a man on base until the fourth, when leadoff man Dexter Fowler walked and moved to third on Jason Castro's one-out single.

That didn't faze Morrow — he struck out cleanup man Jose Altuve and fanned Chris Carter to get out of the jam.

"He was throwing a lot of split-fingers and sliders and we were kind of fishing at them," said Astros outfielder Alex Presley.

The Blue Jays will go for a sweep of the three-game series on Thursday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On Wednesday

Blue Jays	Astros
7	3

Playoff flameouts

Oh, Canadiens!

The Toronto Maple Leafs' playoff hopes ended on Tuesday with a 3-0 loss in Tampa Bay, leaving the Montreal Canadiens as the lone Canadian team left fighting for a Stanley Cup.

According to hockey-reference.com, the last time there was just one post-season participant from north of the border was in 1973 when, yes, the Habs topped the Chicago Blackhawks in the Stanley Cup final. METRO

The Canadiens will be Canada's only hope when the playoffs begin. GETTY IMAGES

Rookies take aim at winning coveted green jacket

Jimmy Walker is one of 24 golfers making their Masters debut Thursday. HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

A quick stroll across the manicured landscape of Augusta National afforded a glimpse of why this Masters is so hard to figure out.

On the putting green in a quiet moment of practice was 20-year-old Jordan Spieth, one of a record 24 newcomers who has every reason to believe he can win. On the golf course for the final day of practice was Webb Simpson, a former U.S. Open champion and one of 21 players who have captured the last 24 majors.

Quoted

"When it comes down to it, it's just going to be that whoever is playing the best is going to walk away with the trophy." Patrick Reed, who is playing in the Masters Tournament for the first time

And under the oak tree outside the clubhouse was Miguel Angel Jimenez, the 50-year-old Spaniard trying to make sense of it all.

He recalled his first Masters in 1995, when Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal shared secrets to Augusta National, such as keeping the ball in the right spots on the green and "to realize here that the target is not the hole."

"The more you play, the more you like, no?" Jimenez said as he leaned against his golf bag, looking relaxed as ever behind his aviator sunglasses.

But as he considered the rookies — Spieth and Patrick Reed, Harris English and Jimmy Walker — he dismissed the notion that experience was required for a green jacket.

"There are 24 guys here for the first time," he said. "But there's a reason they are here, no?" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The Sun in your birth sign does wonders for your confidence but there will still be times when self-belief deserts you. Keep telling yourself there is no good reason you should fear the worst, now or ever.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
This may not be an easy time of year for you but you can sense that the day will soon be here when your luck turns. Maybe that day will come sooner if you act as if nothing could possibly go wrong.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Tone down your comments because the planets warn if you say something others consider over the top it will rebound on you in ways you had not expected.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Think twice before volunteering to help the less fortunate through a task you know little about. Others may be wowed by your enthusiasm but they won't be so impressed if you make a mess of the job.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Don't expose yourself to any kind of situation where you do not have full control over what happens. Not even your confidence will protect you from people who do not share your sense of fair play.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You seem to have a phobia about something that at other times would not worry you. It may continue for a few days but come the start of next week you'll be all smiles again.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Make sure you know what you are talking about today, especially if you are dealing with people who are experts. If you make claims that cannot be backed up with facts, they will make you look silly.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
For some reason you seem to believe you don't have the talent to be a success. That isn't true. Get your head straight and get on with making your mark on the world.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have a tendency to say things you don't believe because you enjoy seeing the looks of shock on people's faces. It may be a lot of fun, but it could backfire today.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You can be sarcastic and the planets warn that your caustic way with words could have long-term consequences that damage others and you.

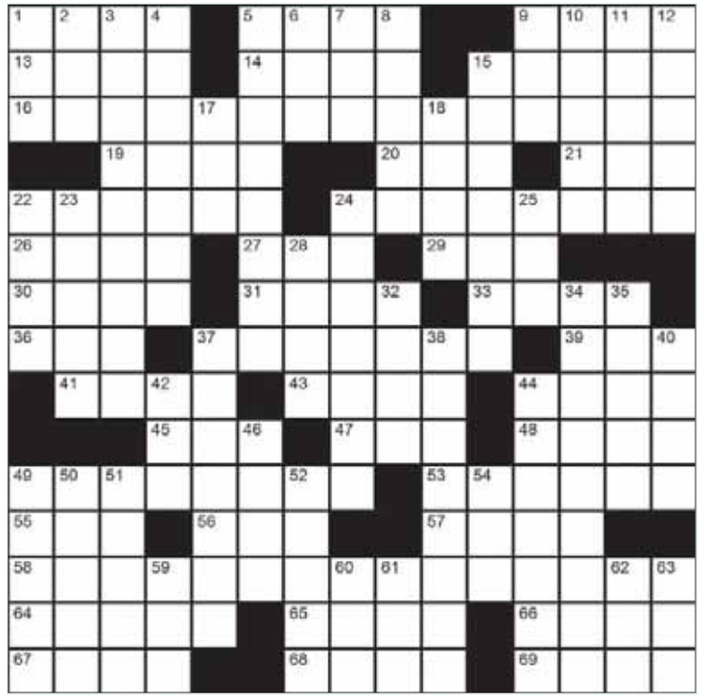
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may not get much in the way of thanks for a good deed today but that's OK. The world would be a sad place indeed if we only ever did favours for others because we expected to get something back in return.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Try not to get angry or frustrated if a goal you are aiming to reach seems to be further away than ever. Just as there is a reason for everything that happens in life so too is there a reason for everything that does not happen. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

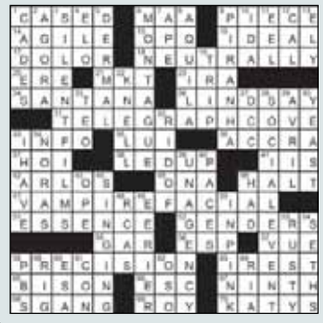
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Niagara Falls' Maid of the __
5. Angry arfer's admonition
9. Dull
13. Wine: __ Spumante
14. Donnie Iris song: "Ah! __!"
15. Accustom
16. Toronto: The __ __ __ Theatre (Opened in 1993, it was named after a member of The Royal Family)
19. Reclined
20. Couplet
21. Antacid brand
22. House kind
24. Herb that sounds like a toast spread
26. Interest __
27. __ __ roll
29. Nero's 54
30. __-bitty
31. Newfoundland's nickname, The __
33. Broom closet items
36. "O Sole __"
37. "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" cast member who is Canadian producer David Foster's wife
39. Cdn. capital
41. Norway's capital
43. Rhyme scheme
44. Indebted person
45. Retro albums, e.g.
47. Spinning stat.
48. Reality's Ms. Leakes
49. Peter of HBO's "Game of Thrones"
53. About [abbr.]
55. A bus driver follows one, for short
56. Cobbler's tool
57. Switchblade
58. "Chasing the Sunset" band from Winnipeg: 2 wds.
64. Hotel employee
65. God: French
66. Mackerel sort
67. Their __ Were Watching God (1937 novel by #51-Down)
68. Chick containers
69. Trans-Canada, et al.

Down
1. Location locator
2. Medit. locale
3. Spikes
4. Sarah Palin impersonator: 2 wds.
5. Manitoba village, home of tourist attraction Sara the Camel
6. __ judicata (Settled court matter)
7. __ al-Khaimah, Middle East emirate
8. Valerie Harper title role
9. Genetic info carrier
10. Geometry set item
11. Field
12. Broom-of-twigs
15. "Letters from __ __" (2006) directed by Clint Eastwood
17. Spy org.
18. Roll up a flag
22. Ladylike
23. 3.14, for example
24. Ghastly
25. Lacto-__ vegetarian
28. 'The Big Easy'
32. Start to 'sack' (Hiker's bag)
34. __-Pine Falls, Manitoba
35. Office item, __ pad
37. Brand of yogurt
38. Syria's capital
40. Famed dino
42. Currency in Albania
44. Singing the right note in music: 2 wds.
46. Cut
49. Ambition
50. "Be that as __ __..."
51. Author, Zora __ Hurston
52. Wooded spot's open space
54. Greek letter
59. Some stoves
60. Fix
61 Edmonton International Airport code
62 'Trick' suffix
63. Boat's distress

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

					9	7		
			2	4		3		
3	4	9				1		
5			1		8		9	
	9						3	
	7		9		5			4
		2				6	7	3
		3		6	2			
		8	5					

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	5	7	3	6	8	4	9
3	9	7	1	8	4	6	2	5
8	6	4	2	9	5	7	3	1
4	7	3	6	1	8	5	9	2
5	8	9	3	4	2	1	7	6
6	1	2	5	7	9	3	8	4
2	3	1	4	6	7	9	5	8
9	4	6	8	5	3	2	1	7
7	5	8	9	2	1	4	6	3

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: 12° MIN: -1°	MAX: 11° MIN: 2°	MAX: 3° MIN: -9°

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Marlborough Mall

Pacific Place

Sunridge Mall

1353 32nd Ave. NE

2520 23rd St. NE

3012 17th Ave. SE

Northwest

Beacon Hill Shopping Centre

Market Mall

North Hill Centre

Southeast

Chinook Centre

Deerfoot Meadows

Shepard Centre

Southcentre Mall

1288 42nd Ave. SE

4410 50th Ave. SE

4825 Macleod Trail S

6039 Centre St. S

6100 Macleod Trail S

7845 Flint Rd. SE

Southwest

Bankers Hall

Bow Valley Square

The Core

Shawnessy Shopping Centre

Westbrook Mall

321 6th Ave. SW

2008 33rd Ave. SW

4623 Bow Trail SW

Airdrie

2145 Summerfield Blvd.

Cochrane

201 Grand Blvd. W

312 5th Ave. W

Okotoks

31 Southridge Dr.

118 Elizabeth St.

Rocky View County

CrossIron Mills

Strathmore

55 Wheatland Trail

331 3rd Ave.

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